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Moscow makes Mediterranean offer

BELGRADE (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was quoted as saying here on Saturday that the Soviet Union was ready to remove ships bearing nuclear missiles from the Mediterranean region. The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug quoted him as saying that the region should be included in disarmament talks in Europe. The statement was made in the last round of official talks between Mr. Shevardnadze and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Rado Dvornikovic in Belgrade, but Tanjug did not elaborate further. Yugoslav Foreign Ministry officials told reporters that Mr. Shevardnadze had expressed interest in a conference of foreign ministers of non-aligned Mediterranean states held on the Yugoslav island of Brioni earlier this month. The conference called for closer cooperation between non-aligned and other Mediterranean countries to further peace and stability in the region. Mr. Shevardnadze also met Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov. He left for the resort of Dubrovnik on Saturday to continue unofficial talks with Mr. Dvornikovic.

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Syrian premier leaves hospital

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm has been discharged from hospital and is expected to resume his duties early next week, cabinet sources said Saturday. They said Dr. Kasm was admitted to hospital last Tuesday and left on Friday after treatment. On Thursday, the Jordanian ambassador to Syria visited him in hospital and wished him a speedy recovery. Dr. Kasm's sudden illness forced the postponement of a visit to Syria by his Iranian counterpart, Mir-Hossein Musavi. The cabinet sources did not give details of Dr. Kasm's illness, but it was believed to involve kidney trouble. The premier formed his 35-member cabinet in April 1985.

China denies receiving Israeli technicians

PEKING (AP) — The Foreign Ministry on Saturday denied a report that Israel was secretly sending military technicians to China. "There is no such a thing," the ministry replied when queried about the report. The Times of London report, quoting unidentified Israeli sources, said 24 Israeli technicians fly to Peking for three-month periods to repair and modernize Soviet tanks and heavy artillery for the Chinese army. It said the technicians for the past year have been upgrading the Soviet tanks with new fire-control systems, laser range-finders and, in some cases, new guns.

PLO says Arab decision needed over Lebanon pact

BAGHDAD (R) — The executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said an Arab decision was the only way to tackle Lebanon's situation. The PLO's parliament voted last month to annul the 1969 Cairo agreement, which gave some freedom of action to PLO fighters in Lebanon. President Amin Gemayel approved the move. The PLO committee, in a statement issued on Friday, said the Cairo agreement was not concluded between two Arab parties only, but it was approved also by Arab summits, therefore it should only be tackled by an Arab decision. Annulment of the Cairo agreement is one of a series of claims thrown around the Palestinian people in Lebanon.

White House has no comment on Abrams

WASHINGTON (USIA) — White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told a questioner on Friday that he had seen news reports quoting congressional sources as saying Elliott Abrams told the Iran-contra hearing less than the whole truth under oath. "We won't have any comment," he added. Asked if President Reagan has "full confidence" in Mr. Abrams, the assistant secretary of state for international affairs, Fitzwater recalled that Secretary of State George Shultz had expressed that confidence and the "president did as well in Venice, and that position has not changed." In Venice, Mr. Shultz had stated the administration position on Mr. Abrams, adding, "I accept the secretary's statement on this."

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INSIDE

- Iraq likely to gain from efforts to end Gulf war, page 2
- AOAD symposium gets under way, page 3
- Neutralising market forces created shortages and surpluses, Panek says, page 4
- Social and political obstacles hinder writers' creative thinking, page 5
- Sukova beats Navratilova in Eastbourne, page 6
- Egyptian employees to get 20% pay increase, page 7
- ASEAN backs nuclear-free zone, page 8

Iraq resumes raids on shipping in Gulf

Maltese tanker and Kharg attacked • Iran warns U.S. • Ship hits mine near Kuwait

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes attacked Iran's vital oil export supply lines on Saturday for the first time in more than a month, damaging a Maltese tanker and striking at the major Kharg Island terminal, regional shipping sources quoted by AP and Reuter said.

In Tehran, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Musavi, hinting at possible retaliation, called the move provocative and said: "Insecurity in the Gulf will be much greater than in the past." A Baghdad war communiqué said Iraqi warplanes bombed Kharg Island, Iran's main export terminal in an Iraqi-proclaimed war zone in the northern Gulf, and attacked a "large naval target." The shipping sources said the 73,700-deadweight-tonne tanker Tenacity, registered in Malta, was hit but had no details. One source said the vessel might have been at Kharg at the time.

Toppled leader of Sharjah demands his reinstatement

SHARJAH (R) — Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassbi, who ruled Sharjah for 15 years, said Saturday the United Arab Emirates (UAE) could break up unless he was reinstated in power. Sheikh Sultan 48, was ousted on Wednesday by his 50-year-old brother, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, but returned from Britain to the neighbouring emirate of Dubai to contest the issue. He said in a statement issued to Reuters through an adviser in London that events in Sharjah could have dangerous repercussions for the UAE, which overlooks vital oil export shipping lanes in the southern Gulf. "If a ruler can be changed suddenly and the federation does not step in to stop such a thing happening, the federation will break up," he said. "In future, any emirate finding itself threatened with change may seek the help of an outside foreign power. This may lead to a Central American situation in the Gulf."

Vatican rejects criticism against Waldheim's visit

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — The Vatican expressed surprise and sadness on Saturday that Pope John Paul's decision to receive Austrian President Kurt Waldheim had drawn opposition from Jews. In its first official written statement on the affair since the visit was announced last Wednesday, the Vatican also stressed that the audience was requested by Dr. Waldheim and should be seen in the context of the Vatican's normal diplomatic relations with Austria.

The June 25 visit will be Dr. Waldheim's first outside Austria since his election last year amid accusations by Jewish groups about his alleged involvement in Nazi war crimes. The Austrian president, who denies the allegations, has been effectively banned from entering the United States. Jewish groups have expressed "outrage" over the Waldheim audience. American Jewish leaders doubt that a planned meeting with the Pope in Miami at the start of his trip to the United States in September could now take place. The statement, which Vatican sources said stemmed from an urgent meeting between the Pope and his aides, said the reaction to the Waldheim audience had deeply saddened and surprised

In Tehran, Mr. Musavi threatened "crushing blows" against U.S. targets in the Gulf after the Iraqi attack on Saturday.

Mr. Musavi, speaking on Tehran Radio, charged Iran "has evidence that Kuwait provided the facilities" for an air strike against a tanker, presumably the Tenacity, in the northern waters of the Gulf at dawn.

Mr. Musavi did not elaborate on his claim, but the Iranians have in the past charged that Iraqi warplanes regularly fly through Kuwaiti air space on their anti-shipping missions.

He claimed the attack on the tanker was designed to "pave the way for America's presence in the region."

The first of 11 Kuwaiti tankers being registered in the United States to afford them protection from Iranian attacks is expected to reach the Gulf by the end of the month.

The Iranians have warned the refueling will not deter them

(Continued on page 3)

an emir guard of about 2,400 men armed with bazookas, jeeps, mounted machine guns and helicopters.

He said Friday he had the full support of the ruling family and would not step down unless his family and people asked him to.

He accused Sheikh Sultan of piling up debts of five billion dirhams (\$1.4 billion) through economic mismanagement and corrupt advisers. He also said Sheikh Sultan had been aloof and unresponsive to the people.

Sharjah, with a population of 230,000, is a minor oil and gas producer which fell heavily in debt in the 1970s and early 1980s through ambitious construction projects based on grossly optimistic projections of oil revenue.

Sheikh Sultan said in his statement on Saturday the emirate was severely affected by last year's drop in world oil prices and had to reschedule some of its loans.

But he said "Sharjah's income is now rising with the increase in oil prices and there are new factors which show much encouragement."

Goulding holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday Cairo was keen to help remove all obstacles to the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters after talks with U.N. Under-Secretary General Mervat Goulding that Egypt, a staunch supporter of the proposed conference, was "keen to offer every assistance to remove all obstacles in its way."

Mr. Goulding, who earlier visited Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to sound out views on such a conference, is due to visit Tunis on Sunday to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders.

Mr. Goulding said Friday the U.N. wanted all concerned parties to attend a peace conference willingly.

Mr. Goulding told reporters on Friday after he arrived that he had no specific proposals but was on a Middle East tour to explore the positions of different parties.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said after the meeting that "while Egypt seeks to hold an international conference, it does not undermine the problems that it faces."

Parliament begins extraordinary session on Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament has been called to convene in an extraordinary session beginning Tuesday to discuss a number of draft laws referred to it by the government.

The call was made by the Lower House's speaker, Mr. Akel Al Fayez, following the issuance of a Royal Decree that gave the go ahead for a Parliament session to start on June 20.

A parliament source said that there were over 15 draft laws pending before Parliament and the concerned committees of the Upper and Lower Houses had discussed them in full.

In accordance with the statute of Parliament the two houses can be convened in extraordinary session in compliance with a Royal Decree. There have been extraordinary sessions every year since 1984, when Parliament was recalled after a 10-year suspension.

Parliament sources told the Jordan Times in April that one of the expected items on the agenda will be the election of a successor to Mr. Hanna Bannoura who passed away in January. The late Bannoura represented the Bethlehem constituency in the Lower House. At least 10 candidates are vying for the vacant seat.

According to the Constitution, Parliament resumes its regular sessions in October after a recess that began in late February.

Meanwhile, the government was going ahead with a revision of lists of voters who registered last month to take part in the coming election. Also, according to Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, the government will issue voting cards to all eligible voters, after the lists have been revised.

The Lower House of Parliament has a mandate that ends in January, 1988. An extension of the present mandate of the House or a call for a general election depends wholly on a Royal Decree in accordance with the Constitution.

They said the Syrian leadership in Lebanon had made contact with all "concerned and influential parties" to release the kidnappers.

Earlier Saturday, a source close to the Syrians told Reuters in Beirut that Damascus was determined to secure the release of the three hostages (See page 2).

Meanwhile, police said tension remained high in Beirut's Shi'ite suburbs after three people were killed and 11 were wounded in clashes between the pro-Syrian Shi'ite Amal militia and members of the Mikdad clan Friday night.

The Mikdad clan is widely regarded as linked to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), which is believed to be linked to kidnappings in Lebanon.

Witnesses quoted by Reuter said most shops stayed shut and jeeps mounted with heavy machineguns roamed many streets.

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Cabinet decides to unify and raise salaries of senior officials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday held a regular session chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and decided to unify and raise salaries of senior government officials as under:

— The president of the court of appeals, the chief judge, the director of the Audit Bureau and the director of the Civil Service Commission: A basic salary of JD 600 in addition to a post-adjustment allowance of JD 500.

— The director of the Prime Ministry, the president of the Jordan Valley Authority, the president of the Water Authority of Jordan (WJA), the chief of the Legislative Bureau and the prime minister's legal adviser: a basic salary of JD 500 plus an allowance of 50 per cent of the basic salary plus JD 50 post-adjustment allowance.

The governors at the Ministry of Interior, under-secretaries, director generals and secretary-

generals at the various ministries, and the cabinet secretary: A basic salary ranging between JD 340 and JD 400 with an annual increment of JD 10, an allowance of 50 per cent of the basic salary and a post-adjustment allowance of JD 50.

The Cabinet decided to amend Article 17 of the civil service regulations accordingly.

In accordance to this decision, taken as part of the government's drive to upgrade the civil service body, the salaries of top government officials were unified.

In another decision, the Cabinet approved the principles and conditions recommended by the Ministry of Finance for the application of the registration of land and real-estate tax laws pertaining to housing projects executed by companies and banks without interest. The decision exempts the Housing Corporation, the Social Security Corporation,

the Urban Development Corporation and other housing co-operatives from fees levied on real-estate sale and registration fees on all housing units.

Housing projects executed by banks and companies would also benefit from these exemptions provided their housing units do not exceed 150 square metres each and the sales contract specifies that the unit was financed without interest. Units exceeding 150 square metres would pay registration fees at a rate per additional metre.

The Cabinet stipulated that in all the cases the beneficiary be a Jordanian and that the housing unit is an apartment or a separate house that is fully constructed.

The Cabinet also approved the WJA budget for 1987 and an agreement of finance between the government and the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank.

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Syria 'determined' to secure release of 3 latest hostages

BEIRUT (R) — Syria is determined to secure the release of U.S. kidnap victim Charles Glass and his two Lebanese companions, seized four days ago in west Beirut, a source close to the Syrians said Saturday.

"There is a determination that this issue should end with the release of the three without any preconditions," the source told Reuters. "All three should be freed."

Glass, together with Ali Ouseiran, son of Lebanon's Shiite Muslim defence minister, and a policeman, were seized by gunmen on the southern edge of Beirut's Muslim sector on Wednesday.

Meanwhile police said that clashes which erupted Friday night in Beirut's mainly Shiite southern suburbs, where several hostages are reported to have been held, subsided at dawn Saturday.

They said two people, including a 10-year-old boy, died and 10 others were injured in grenade and machinegun battles between the mainstream Shiite Amal militia and the Mikdad clan, which is linked to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

It was not clear if the fighting was in any way connected with the kidnappings. A Mikdad family statement published in local newspapers Saturday said the young men involved in the gun-battle did not belong to any political group.

Glass, 36, was the first foreigner to be kidnapped since more than 7,000 Syrian troops deployed in west Beirut last February, and his seizure brought to 29 the total number of foreigners missing, believed kidnapped, here.

The kidnappings, in the Ouzai district where Syrian troops normally man three checkpoints, has embarrassed Damascus in its latest attempt to restore order to the streets of the city.

"The whole issue is that the kidnapping has endangered security," the source said. "And the forces in charge of security will not allow this to happen."

He said Friday the kidnappers had put out feelers in an attempt to make a deal for the captives' release.

Syrian troops went on full alert in west Beirut Friday, and residents reported they were searching all cars rigorously at city checkpoints.

Local newspapers said Hizbollah had placed its fighters on

alert, also. The militant organisation has repeatedly denied any involvement in the abduction of foreigners in Lebanon.

Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of many Shiite militants, said at a prayer meeting Friday that his co-religionists had nothing to do with Wednesday's seizures.

"We are not responsible for that and refuse to accept that Muslims be considered responsible," he said.

Fadlallah has urged the release of "innocent" hostages.

In a separate development Saturday, the state prosecutor in charge of the judicial inquiry into the murder of Prime Minister Rashid Karami last June 1 said he would resign from the probe.

"My resignation is final and irrevocable," Munif Oweidat told Reuters. He did not elaborate.

In the southern coastal town of Rameih, Defence Minister Adel Ouseiran told Reuters there was no conceivable justification for detaining his son or Glass.

"Those whom you (kidnappers) hold are innocent and have nothing to do with anything... there is no cause to detain them," the 52-year-old Shiite minister added.

Ouseiran lost a second son, Abdullah, who was killed in a family feud in the early 1970s.

He said he had made contact with all leaders, parties and militias that might be able to assist in securing the three captives' release.

Ouseiran said Friday he had been advised that Hizbollah held his son, but he told Reuters Saturday he could not identify the kidnappers or their origin and he was not sure if they had been taken to Beirut's Shiite southern suburbs.

Meanwhile the Beirut magazine Ash Shiraa said Friday an Iranian actively opposed to kidnapping has been abducted in Beirut by a powerful ruling faction in Tehran.

It said Muhammad Khatimi had been sent on a special mission to Beirut and apparently had been working against the practice of kidnapping when he fell victim to a power-struggle in Iran.

There was no immediate way to verify the report which, if

confirmed, would bring the number of Iranians missing, reported kidnapped, in Lebanon to four and the total number of foreigners believed abducted to 30.

Iranian diplomats in Beirut were not available for comment.

The pro-Syrian magazine, believed to have close Iranian contacts, last November broke the news of the U.S. arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.

"Muhammad Khatimi is not just the first Iranian but the first revolutionary Iranian to be kidnapped by a powerful ruling faction in Iran," the latest edition of Ash Shiraa quoted informed sources as saying.

Ash Shiraa first reported Khatimi's seizure on April 30 but did not say when he disappeared.

The report was not confirmed. Ash Shiraa quoted the sources as saying: "Every person who opposes the direction of this powerful ruling faction will end up with the same fate as that of Muhammad Khatimi."

They said Khatimi had close links with Iran's Minister of Revolutionary Guards, Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, and opposed the kidnapping of foreigners on principle.

Rafiq-Dust was a moderate and against hostage-taking, the magazine said, adding that he had sent Khatimi on a specific mission to Lebanon.

Ash Shiraa's sources said: "Khatimi's movements (in Beirut) before he was seized indicate he was working against the practice of kidnapping foreigners because it was against the Islamic Shariah (law), unlike the Iranian government's policy."

In its November report on U.S. arms sales to Iran, Ash Shiraa said the Iranian leadership was divided between factions led by Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.

Ayatollah Montazeri has been named as successor to Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He was described by the magazine as a leader opposed to U.S.-Iranian arms links.

In its latest report, Ash Shiraa said Khatimi was seized in the Bir Al Abed area of Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hizbollah stronghold.

It quoted a witness as saying Khatimi was grabbed by bearded gunmen and that a Hizbollah friend of his was warned not to interfere when he began making inquiries into Khatimi's fate.

Captain of Stark, 2 officers relieved

WASHINGTON (R) — The captain of the U.S. frigate Stark and his two senior officers have been relieved of their posts following a missile attack in the Gulf in which 37 of their crew were killed.

The U.S. navy announced Friday night that the three officers had been ordered to leave the Stark because of lack of confidence in their performance.

The navy said it had relieved Captain Glenn Brindel of his command of the Stark, which is being repaired in Bahrain after the missile attack by an Iraqi aircraft.

Capt. Brindel, his second in command and the tactical action officer in charge of the ship's defence were ordered to leave their missile-damaged ship in the Gulf and immediately return to the United States.

Pentagon officials told Reuters that no decision had been made on whether to court-martial Capt. Brindel or any other crew members because of the May 17 attack, in which two Exocet sea-skimming missiles hit the frigate.

Under navy tradition, the captain of a ship is responsible for damage to his vessel and for the action — or lack of action — of his officers.

The decision on a court martial will be made by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

The Defence Department said Admiral Carlisle Trost, chief of naval operations, had ordered the relief of Capt. Brindel, 43, of Pittsburgh, Lieutenant-Commander Raymond Gajan, 32, of Rockville, Maryland, and Lieutenant Basil Moncrief, 35, of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Gajan was the second in command on the Stark and Moncrief was the tactical action officer.

The ship's main defences against missiles, the high-speed Phalanx gun and radar-confusing missiles, were not fired in the night attack on the frigate by an Iraqi Mirage jet fighter.

Capt. Brindel told investigators he was not on the bridge or in the battle control centre but was on a brief "head call" to the toilet in his cabin at the time of the attack.

The United States considered the attack accidental. A congressional report said the ship did not identify itself quickly enough and failed to defend itself as the plane approached.

Capt. Brindel was ordered to report to a desk job at the Norfolk, Virginia, Atlantic Fleet headquarters to await disposition of the case. Gajan and Moncrief will report to Mayport, Florida, naval base.

Capt. Brindel, promoted to the rank of captain last January and scheduled to leave the Stark this summer, will be replaced as the ship's captain by Commander John Noll of Wayne, New Jersey, who has been scheduled to take the post for months.

Capt. Brindel had been expected to sail the damaged Stark home next month.

Saudis 'to permit' wider U.S. surveillance in Gulf

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to permit sophisticated U.S. radar surveillance planes operating from Saudi bases to extend their patrols over the Gulf, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The paper, citing unnamed U.S. officials, said the plan included expanded escorts by Saudi F-15 fighters for the radar planes, known as AWACS, for airborne warning and control system.

The AWACS deal, which comes at the request of the U.S. administration, is intended to beef up the defence of U.S. warships escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Gulf.

According to officials quoted by the Times, the Saudi agreement was conveyed in a letter from King Fahd which was handed to President Reagan Friday by the Saudi ambassador to Washington.

The agreement comes despite last week's withdrawal in the face

of congressional opposition of a White House plan to sell 1,600 Maverick air-to-ground missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Opposition to the sale came from lawmakers fearful the missiles — designed for anti-tank warfare — could be used against Israel and angry that Saudi fighters took no action against an Iraqi jet that attacked the U.S. frigate Stark last month.

The advanced AWACS planes, crammed with radar and electronic monitoring equipment, can track airborne planes, warn friendly forces and guide attacks.

In Washington, U.S. officials said Friday the United States and Saudi Arabia are nearing agreement on the U.S. request to expand the scope of airborne surveillance patrols over the Gulf.

One official, who asked not to be named, said Saudi Arabia was still checking technical aspects of

the arrangement but that he expected a positive Saudi answer in the coming days.

The deal would involve broadening the existing patrols of the AWACS to include the entire Gulf region.

This would enable the United States to monitor Iranian threats against 11 reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers and the U.S. navy ships accompanying the vessels for protection. The U.S. protection arrangement is scheduled to begin next month.

The State Department official said Saudi Arabia had "expressed its displeasure" over the suspension of the Maverick sale, but denied this was holding up the agreement over the expanded AWACS patrols.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the talks with Saudi Arabia were "going smoothly and we believe that we and the Saudis will work

out a favourable arrangement very soon."

Mrs. Oakley praised the Middle Eastern kingdom as a "dependable security partner," but declined to give examples of Saudi cooperation with the United States on Gulf security.

The Reagan administration has urged the Saudis and other members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to participate in a coordinated plan to protect shipping in the region from Iranian missile attacks.

But so far, the Gulf states have failed to offer any concrete help. Bahrain announced last week that it would refuse the United States landing rights on its territory.

Saudi Arabia carries out routine AWACS flights — manned mostly by U.S. crews — and provides air cover with F-15 fighter jets. Until now the patrols have covered only Saudi territory bordering the Gulf waters.

Iraq likely to gain from efforts to end Gulf war

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

BAGHDAD — Iraq stands to reap diplomatic gains from current international moves to end its war with Iran whilst its military and economic prospects are also improving, say officials and diplomats here.

"A number of factors have combined to produce a new air of confidence in Baghdad," said a Western diplomat. "For the moment, things appear to be moving their way."

The attack by Iraqi planes last month on the U.S. frigate Stark, which Baghdad said was an accident, proved the catalyst for a flurry of diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the seven-year-old conflict.

Iraqi officials hope they will lead to a United Nations Security Council resolution closely reflecting their own concept of a peace settlement.

At the same time, experts say Iraq appears to hold the military edge after successfully resisting a prolonged Iranian assault earlier this year on its southern city of Basra.

Baghdad recently received shipments of Soviet MIG 23 fighter jets, T62 and T72 tanks and Brazilian armoured personnel carriers to replace those lost in the fighting, the experts said.

Oil exports are set to rise in September when a new pipeline through Turkey comes on stream, increasing Iraq's ability to finance its war effort.

With the May 17 Stark attack underscoring the hazards of the war to Gulf shipping, the United States led a drive in the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution aimed at ending it.

Experts with direct knowledge of the fighting say Iraqi forces performed well around Basra.

They showed a more efficient, decentralised command structure than in previous setbacks — the loss of the Iraqi port of Fao early in 1986 and an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to seize the Iranian town of Mahran in the central front in June 1986, the experts say.

Mr. Zahawi said the Iraqi defence of Basra had "broken the back of Iranian forces for the foreseeable future" — a claim Iraq has made in the past.

But Western experts say a fresh Iranian offensive is unlikely until the autumn if only because of the heat, which can reach 50 degrees C (122 F) in the southern and central fronts.

Until then, the two sides are likely to maintain a low-level artillery duel with the Iraqi side supported by air strikes. The experts say Iranian forces east of Basra ultimately advanced no more than a few hundred metres during four months of intense fighting in which Iraq lost some 15,000 soldiers and Iran three times as many.

Iraqi officials say Iranian forces are now 20 kilometres east of Basra but some diplomats put them as close as 12 kilometres, on the east bank of Fish Lake, an Iraqi defence.

On the ground, most military

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Diplomats say the main focus of Iraqi concern is now the north, where cooler temperatures could permit an Iranian offensive and where Tehran-backed Kurdish rebels have been attacking army outposts.

Mr. Zahawi said there had been "isolated acts of sabotage by Kurdish elements that are Iranian agents" but Tehran has claimed dozens of Kurdish guerrilla attacks in recent months.

Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds were granted autonomy in 1974 but two rebel groups — the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union for Kurdistan — united last year to fight for greater local powers.

Diplomats say Baghdad has been dealing harshly with the rebels and some villages suspected of harbouring them have been razed with inhabitants moved to camps outside the main Kurdish cities of Irbil and Kirkuk.

But Salah Mokhtar, director of foreign information at the Information Ministry, said the reports were false.

"It could happen that some border villages are affected by fighting between Iraqi and Iranian troops, but I deny categorically reports of the deliberate destruction by Iraq of villages in northern Iraq," he said.

Hamadei lawyer prepares for W. German trial

BONN (Agencies) — The lawyer for suspected Lebanese terrorist Mohammad Ali Hamadei, whom Washington is demanding be extradited, will return from the United States Sunday with material for use in a possible trial in West Germany, her husband said Saturday.

Hans-Burkhardt Steck told Reuters his wife, Gabriele Steck-Bronne, had flown to Miami on June 10 to study evidence in the 1985 hijacking of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane in which her client is accused of air piracy and murder.

U.S. demands for Hamadei's extradition from West Germany, where he was arrested in posses-

sion of explosives last January, have been stalled by the kidnapping in Beirut of two West Germans seized in a bid to force Hamadei's release.

In a telephone interview, Steck said his wife's research was in preparation for a West German trial but declined to say where she had gathered material.

"A trial here now looks a little more likely. After all we don't know what kind of consequences there would be if there was to be an extradition," he said. He declined to elaborate.

The Bonn government fears that the two West Germans, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, would be killed in revenge if Hamadei were delivered into U.S. hands.

A majority of the U.S. Senate Friday urged West Germany to extradite Hamadei for trial in the United States.

A resolution by 65 of the 100 senators warned that any exchange of Hamadei for the hostages was unacceptable and would damage relations between the two countries.

Bonn has said it will decide next week whether to extradite Hamadei or try him in Frankfurt.

Some senators criticised the White House and the State Department for failing to apply enough pressure on West Germany.

Reagan hails Chad victory in north

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has hailed Chad's defeat of Libyan forces, but he and Chadian President Hissene Habre say the desert nation still faces a threat.

Libya's intervention in Chad and the humbling of its forces last March by Mr. Habre's desert fighters topped the agenda in White House talks between the two men Friday as Mr. Habre began a five-day official visit to Washington.

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Israeli premier arrives in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has arrived in this West African country as part of a two-day tour of African nations that have re-established diplomatic relations with Israel.

The prime minister was greeted by President Felix Houphouët-Boigny at the airport in Yamoussoukro, the country's political and administrative capital 250

kilometres north of Abidjan. The government-run newspaper, *Fraternite Matin*, devoted several pages of Friday's edition to Shamir's visit, emphasising the close ties between the two countries and the Ivory Coast's desire to stay neutral in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel provides technical and agricultural assistance to the Ivory Coast. One of the country's

largest contracting firms, Sonitara, is an Israeli-Ivorian company.

The Ivory Coast, which re-established relations with Israel last year, was one of 29 nations that cut relations with Israel after the 1973 Middle East war.

Four other African nations have re-established relations with Israel: Zaire, Togo, Liberia and Cameroon.

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15:30 Koran
15:55 Programme Review
15:55 Children's programme
16:00 Give Me a Break
17:00 World Alive
18:00 Local Agricultural programme
18:30 Arabic series
19:30 Local programme
19:30 Castable 90-90 Letter from America
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Faces and Events (Arabic)
22:30 Local variety programme
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme contd.

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 French film
19:00 News in French
19:15 M. Benjamin
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Growing Pains
21:10 Conquest
22:00 News in English
22:20 Miss Marple

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07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Pop Session
11:30 In Concert
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Talk
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Science Report
14:50 Concert Hour
15:00 News Summary
15:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Listener's Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show continued
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show continued
22:00 News Summary

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Among Friends 07:45 Reflections
07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World
News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary
08:30 Castable 90-90 Letter from America
09:00 Newsday 09:30 Choirs of Britain 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondents 10:35 World News 10:40 15 Minutes 10:45 News About Britain 10:50 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 The Pleasure's Yours 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 Through My Window 12:45 The Racing Game 13:00 News Summary: Short Story 13:15 From Our Own Correspondents 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:05 15 Minutes 14:10 News About Britain 14:15 World News 14:20 15 Minutes 14:25 The Pleasure's Yours 14:30 World News 14:35 British Press Review 14:45 Through My Window 15:00 The Racing Game 15:05 News Summary: Short Story 15:15 From Our Own Correspondents 15:30 Religious Service 16:00 World News 16:05 15 Minutes 16:10 News About Britain 16:15 World News 16:20 15 Minutes 16:25 The Pleasure's Yours 16:30 World News 16:35 British Press Review 16:45 Through My Window 16:50 The Racing Game 16:55 News Summary: Short Story 17:05 From Our Own Correspondents 17:30 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Amin Al Hussein named RJ deputy chief; Balqaz succeeds him as CAA head

AMMAN (J.T.) — Captain Amin Al Hussein, director of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), has been appointed deputy to the chief executive of Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline, according to RJ sources Saturday.

Mr. Hussein, a veteran pilot with RJ, will put in charge of the airline's technical, airport, passenger, maintenance, training and cargo services, according to the sources.

Reuter news agency said that Mr. Hussein will be succeeded by Mr. Mahmoud Balqaz who resigned last week as RJ's director general following a service of three years in his post.

RJ Board Chairman Ali Ghandour told the Jordan Times last Monday that the national carrier was undergoing modernisation in its administrative procedures that



Amin Al Hussein would involve reforms in the system.



Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz

Mr. Ghandour said that reforms within the airline's administrative procedures would include a regrouping of vice presi-

dents and other administrative measures aimed at improving the performance of the national carrier. He said the position of RJ director general would be retained by himself.

Khayyat receives Brunei minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Saturday received Minister of Religious Affairs in Brunei Haj Mohammad Zein and discussed with him cooperation and coordination between the two countries in religious and cultural fields.

Dr. Khayyat explained his ministry's activities and goals.

He also reviewed Jordan's efforts aimed at supporting the steadfastness of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories and the ministry's role in supporting holy places there through the establishment of Islamic schools and colleges.

Dr. Khayyat also outlined work being carried out by the Aga Mosque and the Dome of the Rock restoration committee to



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat (left) receives the Brunei minister of religious affairs, Haj Mohammad Zein on Saturday. The Brunei minister is here to discuss religious and cultural cooperation between his country and Jordan (Petra photo).

preserve these holy places.

He also spoke about Israeli actions against these holy places.

The visiting minister paid tri-

bute to the Jordanian government's efforts in this field and said that he would report back to his country about these efforts.

Delegates for illiteracy panel begin arriving

AMMAN (J.T.) — A conference by under secretaries of ministries of education in Arab countries opens in Amman tomorrow; delegates to the five-day meeting started arriving in Amman on Saturday.

The under secretaries of the ministries of education in North Yemen and Oman have arrived and were met by senior officials from the Ministry of Education, led by Dr. Radi Waqfi, the secretary general of the Ministry of Education, who will lead Jordan's delegation.

The meeting is being organized in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). UNESCO said on Wednesday that the meeting will devise ways to combat illiteracy in the Arab World which once ranked second after Africa in the ratio of illiterates to the population in the world, but now has moved to first place.

UNESCO educational specialist Abdel Wahed Yousef told a press conference that Jordan's illiteracy ratio remained the lowest in the Arab World.

Referring to the meeting, he said that the under secretaries will review educational development in the Arab states since the 1977 Abu Dhabi conference



Director of the Water Authority of Jordan (W.A.J.), Mohammad S. Keilani, and representatives of two American companies sign an agreement for technical cooperation and assistance on water projects on Saturday.

Agricultural marketing symposium gets under way

AMMAN (Petra) — The second symposium on agricultural and food marketing in the Arab World and the role of agricultural products in achieving food security began here Saturday.

The four-day symposium is discussing working papers on Arab agricultural marketing policies. Arab agreements regulating the flow of agricultural commodities

inside Arab markets, as well as problems facing agricultural marketing policies.

The symposium has been organized by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development in cooperation with the World Bank's Centre for Economic Development.

The first symposium, which ended here on Thursday, discussed working papers by Arab and foreign experts on the experience of some Arab countries in the agricultural marketing and production field and the need for setting up the infrastructure for Arab strategic storage projects and the efforts being exerted to strengthen Arab marketing power in the world cereals market.

Agricultural credit panel groups 17 Arab countries

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week regional symposium on agricultural credit opened in Amman Saturday.

Delegates from 17 Arab countries, including Jordan, are taking part in the meetings in which modern trends in agricultural credit administration will be discussed.

Dr. Burhan Sharabi, deputy director of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), addressed the first session outlining the objectives of the symposium and reviewing the work of the ACC in

Jordan and its services to the Jordanian farmers.

He also spoke about the Near East North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association, which is organising the symposium. He said the association now groups 33 organisations involved in giving credit to farmers in agricultural fields.

The 20 participants will be visiting the ACC headquarters and agricultural projects during their symposium.

53 noncommissioned police officers promoted

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony was held Saturday for promoting 53 noncommissioned police officers after completing 12 years' service during which they received police training and studied laws and legislations pertaining to police work.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of Public Security Department (PSD) Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali who made an address on the occasion in which he said that the PSD was going ahead with plans for developing the police force in Jordan with a view to coping with

social development in the Kingdom and modern trends in police work.

He said that the PSD was continuing a process of modernising its communications equipment and police cars.

Transport ministers to meet in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab Transport Ministers' Council's executive board, which will be held in Tunis on June 23. Representing Jordan at the meetings will be Transport Minister Ahmad Dakqhan. The ministers will discuss issues pertaining to facilitating movement of vehicles and unification of transport regulations in the Arab World.

WAJ signs \$2m contract for U.S. technical aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two American companies have signed a contract with the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) for technical assistance in the field of domestic water services, wastewater treatment and water quality monitoring.

Under the agreement, the Water Authority will receive \$2 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop and institutionalise its management and technical capabilities.

Specifically, this financial support will provide a training component for WAJ employees in management, operation and maintenance of water networks, pumping stations, and treatment

process facilities.

This assistance constitutes the last phase of the \$21 million USAID-sponsored Water Systems and Services Management Project. Previous phases of this six-year programme supported engineering design, construction, and construction supervision for water and wastewater systems in ten Jordanian cities.

The agreement was signed on June 20 by the president of the Water Authority, Mr. Mohammad S. Keilani, and representatives of the two U.S. firms, CH2M Hill International and Montgomery Brown and Caldwell, which will provide in-country training.

Italian experts survey tourism sites in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Italian experts have been employed to help draw up plans for stimulating tourism and to organise cities in Irbid Governorate. These experts have already carried out a survey of archaeological and tourist sites in the governorate, according to Irbid Governor Akram Al Nasser.

The governor, who was speaking at a meeting to discuss the governorate's five-year plan, said that officials in charge of the implementation of the plan have been taking measures to intensify work in the fields of tourism and agriculture. Plans have been made for planting forests and fruit trees, and steps have been

taken to build dams to store rain water for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Nasser referred to a report prepared by a team of experts which suggested the formation of a common services council for Irbid and neighbouring towns and villages and a regional plan to develop outlying regions and budgets allocated for those purposes.

The meeting was attended by members of the executive and legislative bodies of the Irbid Governorate, who include among others Parliament deputies of the Irbid constituency and mayors of different towns in the governorate.

Colours, space of gallery complement exhibition of French artist's work

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the red, white and black architectural gallery of the Riyadh Centre, this week are the red, white and black paintings of M. Jany Bourdais, director of the French Cultural Centre. Complementing not only the colours of the gallery but also the space's feeling of organised simplicity, the paintings are the culmination of many months research — research that has led to paintings so rational and economical that virtually every line assumes a meaning.

Each of the 13 images is in fact an homage to one of the various influences on the artist's way of thinking. Some are direct tributes like the ones to the singers Ray Charles and Catherine Ribeiro, to the writer Kerviel, to the surrealist artist, Magritte, and to the engineer Mr. Eiffel.

Others are more obtuse, like the one to Freud and to the writer Henry De Monfreid who wrote about Ethiopia.

Obvious or not, they give an insight into the artist's leanings and direction but not strangely into his character for the paint-

ings remain coldly detached and unemotional.

These figurative paintings are a new departure for Bourdais, who since leaving the Sorbonne where he studied fine arts for five years, has been a totally abstract artist along very minimal lines.

After holding three exhibitions in Paris, Bourdais went to Ethiopia for three years to teach architectural drawing and draughtsmanship. There, due to the hardship he saw all around him, Bourdais found he could not paint.

It wasn't until he came to Amman that he began to paint again and this time figuratively. The figures drawn either in black or in a kind of stippling reminiscent of computer drawings, are however only a small part of the painting — a fact he draws attention to by confining them in and around the squares that dominate the compositions.

A psychological symbol for the whole person, the square for Bourdais is also a very important form. "The circle," he says, "can be found in nature, but the square is of purely human manufacture. It is also a very objective form. It doesn't say anything on

its own. It is merely a support, a background.

"Furthermore, the square is universally recognised — everyone knows it has four equal sides and this means they all start from the same basis."

The square thus performs many different functions. By cutting and offsetting it, Bourdais achieves various compositional effects, for example the idea of openings, of windows, of pictures within pictures.

It is also within the squares that Bourdais actually paints, leaving the evidence of this action with thick brush strokes which break the boundaries of the square suddenly stopping to reveal the paper beneath.

By these brushstrokes, by leaving some of the original surface free of pigment, Bourdais wants to remind us, to draw our attention to the fact that these are paintings, not slices of life or an expression of the outside world.

And the red, white and black? White and black are all the colours together and so for Bourdais they are the symbol of painting, while red is the symbol of life.

The exhibition runs until June 26.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab book exhibition opens

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of books by writers from Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan was opened here Saturday by Dr. Mousa Keilani, director general of the Department of Press and Publications. The books, which have been issued by different publishing houses in the Arab World, will remain on display for two weeks. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Ahmad Shams, director general of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives, and an audience of intellectuals and invited guests.

Jordan, Romania sign cultural accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has approved the programme of cultural cooperation signed between Jordan and Romania. The programme provides for cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries for the years 1987-1990 in training and technology fields. It also provides for the exchange of experiences and visits by officials and university professors from both countries.

Dakhqan leaves for Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakqhan leaves Amman today for Tunis to take part in a meeting by the executive office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport which is due to open on June 23. The ministers are expected to discuss a pan-Arab strategy on transport and to study the implementation of earlier resolutions taken by the Arab ministers of transport.

Symposium discusses investments for Islamic banks

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on investment strategies for Islamic banks resumed meetings at the Jordanian Academy for Arabic in Amman on Saturday, and reviewed a working paper by Dr. Awsaf Ahmad from the Islamic Centre for Research and Training, dealing with credit offered by Islamic banks.

The paper dealt also with the Islamic banks operations, and employing deposits for investment in businesses and sharing profits with depositors instead of interest given by other banks.

Another paper by Dr. Mohammad Abdul Halim Omar from Al Azhar University in Cairo outlined the basic services of the Islamic banks.

The symposium, which was an offshoot of the six-day meeting of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Bait Foundation) which ended in Amman Friday.

Iraq resumes raids on shipping in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

from hitting Kuwaiti vessels or those trading with the emirate. Tehran charges Kuwait aids Iraq in the war.

Saturday's Iraqi raid ended a month-long moratorium on attacks on Gulf shipping, apparently imposed by Baghdad in the confusion following its missile raid on the U.S. frigate Stark on May 17.

Thirty-seven American sailors were killed in that attack, which Baghdad said was accidental.

Diplomats had interpreted the halt in Iraqi raids as a sign that Baghdad supported current Western efforts at the United Nations to bring in an effective resolution to stop the war.

But Iraqi leaders insisted Baghdad's policy had not changed. "The temporary halt did not mean a change in predetermined strategy," a senior official told Reuters in Baghdad.

"The Iraqi attacks against enemy ships and vital economic and oil targets are part of a constant strategy," he said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military communiqué as saying that "today's two strikes are in line with the implementation of Iraq's resolve to deprive the Iranian regime of all wicked means that enable it to continue the war."

In another development, Gulf-based marine salvage officials reported that the 247,408-ton Liberian supertanker Stena Explorer hit a mine off the Kuwaiti coast Friday after leaving the emirate's Al Ahmadi terminal with a cargo of oil.

The tanker was not believed to have been seriously damaged. It was the fourth tanker hit by mines since May 16. Iran's Re-

volutionary Guards have mined the shipping lanes into Al Ahmadi in recent weeks, Gulf shipping sources have reported.

The U.S. naval hydrographic office in Washington has warned American ships to "exercise extreme caution" in Kuwait's shipping channels because of the mining.

Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported that the deputy parliament speaker, Mohammad Yazdi, on Friday inspected Revolutionary Guards naval bases on Larak Island and the Strait of Hormuz.

The agency did not elaborate. But Iran has deployed Chinese-made Silkworm anti-ship missiles in the strait.

The United States has ordered a naval buildup in the Gulf since the Stark affair and is planning to give protection to half of Kuwait's tanker fleet now being re-registered under the American flag.

The United States said Friday Kuwait was also discussing plans to lease privately-owned U.S. tankers to transport oil through the Gulf.

State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley told reporters the United States expects to conclude very soon a favourable arrangement with Saudi Arabia concerning expanded security cooperation in the Gulf (See page 2).

The two developments came as the Reagan administration continued to come under fire in Congress for its plans to bring Kuwaiti tankers under American flags.

"The Kuwaitis have discussed the possibility of chartering U.S. flag vessels with the maritime administration," Oakley said.

She emphasised, however, that "if some charter arrangement could be worked out, it would not

supplant the reflagging arrangement we worked out with the Kuwaitis."

In both cases, the ships would be eligible for U.S. navy escort in the Gulf, she said.

In mounting criticism of the Reagan administration's plans for the Gulf, a key congressman said the administration agreed to protect Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf without asking U.S. intelligence officials for a direct assessment of the risks.

Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, blasted Washington's plan to put U.S. flags on Kuwaiti ships and protect them from Iranian attack in the Gulf, saying the policy was not thought through carefully.

The reflagging operation has met strong opposition in Congress, where members fear the United States could be dragged into the nearly seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

"The policy was put together on the back of an envelope," he told reporters after a briefing by intelligence officials.

"We have seen it before and we see it again," he said in reference to the administration's secret arms sales to Iran, which damaged U.S. credibility and are the subject of congressional hearings and an independent investigation.

Mr. Aspin said while there was a constant flow of information to the White House from the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies on the Gulf, the administration did not request a specific assessment of the risks involved in the reflagging before making the decision a few months ago.

Local designer, manufacturers create Jordanian fashion

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Black, white, blue, royal blue, red, khaki, and leopard skin are the 1987 summer colours chosen by Jordanian haute couture (exclusive high fashion) designer Abeer Abdel Rahim. Silk, crepe, satin de chaise and smooth taffeta are the 1988 fabric, and used by Abeer for this summer's fashion.

Various lengths — midi, just below the knee, and just above the knee — are available depending on the design of the dress. Most of the dresses are low-waist,

and all have belts. The length of the sleeves are either three quarters long with four layers of lining, or padded shoulders without sleeves. Abeer used many bows for the summer. On belts, buttons of the outfits, and on the hair.

Against the music of the Spanish guitar, Abeer presented her fifth fashion show, her fourth in Jordan, where twenty different dresses were paraded on five models. The various dresses and outfits for this summer are convenient for the day, evening, and formal occasions.

Her latest fashion show at the Regency Hotel was her most suc-

cessful yet. Abeer said at a press conference. The show, completely financed by the designer, was "completely booked up," she said.

Abeer, who studied fashion designing in Paris, said that she has one style, but her collections for the seasons differ.

She said that it takes six months to prepare new seasonal collections. She first designs the outfit on paper, chooses the colours for each outfit, then she shops for the proper fabric with the proper colours from Paris. The designer then cuts the design on another material for a trial, and then on the chosen fabric. She then prepares for a fashion show.

Abeer's outfits and dresses are sold from JD 80 and up. She added that she pays 120 per cent import duties for the material she obtains from Paris. "It is a very costly profession," she said.

Local industry

Abeer said she was the only haute couture designer in Jordan. She added that there was a big clothes industry in the country, stating that they usually buy several dresses and outfits from abroad, copy them, and produce similar ones on the assembly line.

Three local factories, however, have been cooperating with Abeer for the past year after the owners saw her fashion show last August. She sells different designs to the three manufacturers, but not using her haute couture designs. The designer said that those three factories have stopped using imported designs since she started cooperating with them.

Abeer plans to open a business for herself in California very



Jordanian designer, Abeer Abdel Rahim, models her creations with her other models at the end of the fashion show held at the Regency Palace Hotel.



Lana models a royal blue crepe de chaine dress with beaded collar and belt at the fashion show.

soon. "Two American lawyers have done a feasibility study and preparations are being made now. The chances of succeeding there are very high," she said. She explained that because most American designers usually make

leisure wear, her formal designs will be something new. She added that most of the high fashion in the U.S. is imported from Europe and not made there. Abeer will be dividing herself between Jordan and the U.S.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Neutralising market forces created shortages, surpluses

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

PERHAPS the most urgent problem facing Jordanian economic decision-makers is the fact that both production and investment are beset by acute shortages and surpluses at the same time.

In the manufacturing sector for example it seems that we lack many products and have no alternative except to import them while, at the same time, our local factories are flooding the market with unneeded tonnes of plastics, paints, sanitary paper and medicine, all in excess of demand.

In the agricultural sector we find excessive production in tomato, cucumber, eggplant, eggs, and poultry, side by side with huge deficit in grains, red meat, dairy, and some fruits.

In the tourism sector, we experience over supply of airplane seats and hotel beds with chronic shortages in other touristic attractions and facilities that can attract tourists and persuade them to prolong their stay in the country.

In the real estate area we find empty villas, expensive houses and spacious offices coupled with painful shortage in small and inexpensive houses and apartments.

The same picture is repeated in the field of investment. Huge resources are sunk in large-scale projects, which are very moderate in number, feasibility, and returns; while hundreds of small and flexible projects lack the little capital they need in order to be

started or in order to survive.

The rule in any integrated society and economy is that productive and consumption resources are allocated in a way that maximises returns, and benefits and satisfy needs. When surpluses and shortages go hand in hand, we may be justified to conclude that some major distortion and misallocation of resources are taking place and producing these odd result. This should be taken as a definite evidence that there is something terribly wrong in our applied economic policy and in the incentive system currently employed.

To secure a reasonable balance between supply and demand, and to achieve an optimum allocation of resources, there are only two methods to choose from: First, the central planning, conducted by the government and complemented by a body of positive and negative incentives; and second, the market mechanism where trends are determined freely in accordance with the overall wishes, needs and convictions of the vast numbers of producers and consumers.

For good or ill, we in Jordan chose the first method. We placed on the shoulders of the government the full responsibility of running the economy, making the major decisions and formulating comprehensive policies and plans. This method is more appealing

and looks superior on paper. After all, it represents employing reason and will to formulate the future.

Unfortunately we failed, as evidenced by the surpluses and shortages in each and every sector. It is only logical to try the second approach and give it a chance. We may become able to mobilise more resources and shift them from the areas of surpluses, where they concentrate, to areas of shortages where they are more badly needed. Under market distribution of resources we should be able to maximise social return of investments and maximise social utility of consumption. We need only to remove the disincentives that are abound.

There is no denial that Japan, Korea and Singapore planned and succeeded. But perhaps it is only beneficial to admit that our planning and interference in the market is taking us nowhere. If our planning and irrational interference did not produce except distortion and misallocation evidenced by shortages and surpluses, we owe it to ourselves to let people make their own decisions in the market place, even if we consider that, the least of two evils.

Finally, we should remember that the choice is not between the market and the ideal planning some dreamers have in mind. It is between the market, imperfect as it may be, and the real planning and interference that we experience in real life.

Multi-purpose Zionist game

THE clogs of the Zionist machinery are at work again; this time it was the Vatican which inadvertently fed the fuel by confirming a papal audience with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim whom the Zionists accuse of having participated in World War II crimes. Obviously, the world Zionist movement, in its relentless drive to achieve its universal goals, has not been satisfied with just pushing the American administration to put Dr. Waldheim on a "watchlist" and to bar the former secretary-general of the U.N. from entering the U.S. It has now picked up the planned Waldheim visit to the Vatican this week to apply further pressure on the world community at large to make concessions to the Zionist drive.

A close look at the so-called controversy raging over the planned Vatican visit of the Austrian president reveals that the event has offered the right opportunity for the Zionists to grab and to drive home their mudslinging campaign against him and further keep alive the theme of persecution of Jews during World War II by generating more and more news of protests and appeals to the Holy See to call off the visit. Either way, wittingly or unwittingly, the international information media serve the dual purpose of the Zionists and maintain pointed references to the "Nazi holocaust" within the fringes of world headlines.

The Zionist campaign against the respected Austrian leader also serves another purpose; that of intimidating other world leaders and U.N. officials. It reminds them that they could also find themselves at the receiving end of Zionist wrath if they decide to take an objective stand which conflicts with Zionist designs in any part of the globe, more so when it comes to the Middle East.

Dr. Waldheim was only underlining the truth behind the attempts at character assassination against him when he reaffirmed his belief this week that his unbiased stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict and concerted efforts during his U.N. service to find a just solution to the problem could be one of the factors that motivated the Zionists.

In any event, the fact remains that most nations, with the notable exception of the U.S. which, in any case, always looks the other way when it comes to antagonising the Jewish lobby, have realised the truth and undermined the Zionist drive to "isolate" Dr. Waldheim. We in Jordan would be honoured to be the people of the first country that Dr. Waldheim visits after becoming president when he arrives here on July 1.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Waldheim praises Jordan

AUSTRIAN President Kurt Waldheim has expressed his deep appreciation to Jordan and King Hussein for their efforts and said that Jordan can play a leading role in the international arena. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Waldheim said that there could not be peace in the world as long as there is no peace in the Middle East which is a sensitive area and which affects the security of the whole world. Waldheim stressed the need for the international community to exert more efforts for bringing about a just and lasting settlement which would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Waldheim referred to propaganda campaigns waged against him by world Zionism and said that allegations against him are all baseless and it was regrettable that the United States should be taken in by such falsehoods and order a ban against his visiting the United States. It is regrettable to see and hear U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz adopting these allegations and falsehoods and propagating them world wide in a bid to set the world public opinion against the Austrian president. This attitude on the part of Israel and the United States stems from the fact that Waldheim was totally biased in his post as U.N. secretary general and was supporting the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Al Dustour: De Cuellar expresses optimism

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed his belief that the chances for holding an international Middle East peace conference have improved and that his contacts with various concerned parties to convene such conference were continuing. He said that his contacts proved that all concerned parties were willing to discuss the conference idea. Though de Cuellar was not so much optimistic about the situation and did not give a date for the possible convening of the proposed conference, yet his statement gives us cause to be optimistic that the last obstacles could be removed eventually and that the conference could be held. De Cuellar's statement came as his deputy Marrack Goulding is continuing his tour of the region discussing the question of the conference with the concerned governments of the Middle East and after receiving a report from Goulding on the present situation. But what worries us is the stand of the Israeli government which continues to reject the idea of the conference. This Israeli position constitutes a real obstacle in the path of genuine and lasting peace and blocks all efforts for convening the international conference. We look with optimism to the outcome of de Cuellar's contacts and consultations about holding the conference, and we are confident that with his wisdom and experience he can overcome the difficulties that obstruct his mission.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another Lebanese national front

THE leaders of Islamic parties and leftist factions were due to meet in Damascus Sunday to lay down the basis for the work of a national front grouping all factions and political groups. The leaders of these parties have already held side meetings to pave the way for the Damascus parley and this is an indication that sincere efforts are underway for a national reconciliation in Lebanon and for maintaining a unique relationship with Syria. These are important steps that should be taken as a prelude to any lasting solution for the Lebanese problem. Therefore the Damascus meeting is important and could pave the way for a speedy solution for the whole question. The Lebanese ought to take such step in view of the looming danger in the north which is under constant Israeli threat.

A benign occupation?

The following article is part two in a two-part series published by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding to mark 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Part one appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.

FAR from providing a stimulus to the development of the Palestinian economy, Israel itself has derived considerable economic benefit from the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition to the confiscation of both land and water the Israeli economy has directly benefited from its occupation in the following ways.

A captive market: the occupied territories are the second largest market for Israeli goods after the U.S. Approximately 25 per cent of Israel's non-military exports go to the West Bank and Gaza, which amounts to 90 per cent of all imports to the occupied territories. The vast majority of this is manufactured goods.

As Sheila Ryan states, the occupied territories act as "a convenient dumping ground for shoddy Israeli products". The occupied territories have a trade deficit with Israel which is currently running at \$500m a year.

A pool of cheap labour: in the 20 years of occupation the number of agricultural workers within the occupied territories has been halved. In addition, employment in traditional handicraft production has been severely affected by the influx of cheap Israeli imports and the diversion of much of the lucrative tourist trade to the Israeli sector. Local employment in the West Bank and Gaza actually fell from 153,000 in 1970 to 144,000 in 1983.

A generation of disinherited Palestinians who have been transformed from landowners to landless labourers have no option but to seek work as day wage labourers in Israel. They get the most menial jobs at rates of pay on average 50 per cent lower than their Jewish Israeli counterparts.

There are 90,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza working inside the Green Line; that is approximately 40 per cent of the occupied territories' workforce. It is estimated that half the workforce of the occupied territories has no suitable employment opportunities. Unemployment is officially running at 10 per cent, but among graduates the level is as high as 80 per cent.

A source of finance: the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza have paid an "occupation tax",

through VAT and import duties, which has amounted to at least \$700m for the West Bank alone. According to Benvenisti, if this money: "Had been invested in the areas rather than added to Israeli public expenditure, it would have been possible to improve local services significantly, and in particular, to develop local economic infrastructure."

In addition, Israel benefits from foreign exchange — legally deposited transfers amount to "at least \$150m a year," according to Benvenisti.

The economies of the occupied territories are increasingly dependent on foreign sources of income — 40 per cent of the disposable income of the West Bank comes from remittances from abroad. Without the sizeable Palestinian workforce abroad — especially in the Gulf states — the economies of the occupied territories would collapse.

Any improvement in living standards, as measured by domestic consumption and disposable income, has been bought at the cost of a dispossessed, highly vulnerable migrant labour force and a high rate of unemployment. Thus the real impact of 20 years of occupation is: "Increased dependence on external sources, coupled with stagnation and decline in its own productive sectors, (which) underlines the vulnerability of the Palestinian economy," states Benvenisti.

Health

The health of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories has to be seen against a background of poor housing and sanitation, overcrowding and inadequate facilities.

For example, the number of hospital beds in the West Bank has fallen from 1,023 in 1968 to 974 in 1984 (by comparison, in Israel, the number of bed rose from 14,313 to 26,400 during the same period). Between 1980 and 1984 the ratio of hospital beds to population fell from 1:527 to 1:569.

The conditions in these government hospitals are far from adequate. Sarah Roy describes conditions in a typical Gaza hospital in the following terms:

"Mice, roaches and other insects were observed scurrying through individual wards, rooms and bathrooms. Rooms were extremely dirty and in a state of decay as indicated by broken windows, peeling paint and cracked floors. Hospital beds were old and rusting and patients were observed two to a bed, lying on sheets that were torn and bloodstained."

The proportion of doctors to the general population is very low. In the West Bank it is 1:1,000, whereas in Jordan it is 1:625. At the same time, unemployment among Palestinian doctors is high — in Gaza about 200 doctors were unemployed in 1984. Yet because of the lack of opportunities in government-run hospitals and clinics, most have left Gaza and obtained employment abroad.

The difficult economic situation in the occupied territories is a major problem for those seeking medical treatment and has resulted in a drop in admissions to private hospitals, but an increase in out-patient treatment as people seek to avoid the expense of hospitalisation. Under these circumstances, there have been moves towards organising co-operative based medical care and voluntary medical relief committees have sprung up in the occupied territories.

These operate outside the official government-run hospitals and clinics to provide village-based health care. They are forced to operate on an ad hoc basis and often lack sufficient facilities. Nevertheless, they provide a valuable source of medical assistance to people who would otherwise probably have to forego treatment.

There is a real shortfall in health service resources in the occupied territories. For example, in 1981-82, the expenditure for health on the West Bank, including money from both governmental and non-governmental organisations, was about 23 per cent of Israeli public health expenditure (West Bank Handbook).

Education

Education in the occupied territories is a confusion of three systems, government, UNRWA and private. There are over 270,000 students attending schools and more than 7,000 teachers.

In keeping with the region as a whole, literacy levels have improved over the past 20 years and there is some improvement in the numbers going on to vocational and teacher training. However, the most dramatic development in Palestinian education has been the establishment of five universities — four in the West Bank and one in Gaza.

The Israeli authorities are very fond of quoting this development as an example of their "benevolence". However, the facts belie this view.

The initial reason for starting universities in the occupied territories was that Palestinians wanting to study at degree level were no longer able to travel freely to other Arab countries as they had done before the occupation. Bir Zeit and An Najah Universities — the two largest — were founded on the basis of pre-existing Palestinian schools and colleges which were up-graded with the help of Arab (mainly Palestinian) money. Bethlehem University was established in 1975 as a Catholic institution with Vatican backing and Hebron and Gaza Universities started life as Islamic colleges which subsequently expanded their curriculum and up-graded their status to university level.

There has been no Israeli money or support in this process which has been fostered by Palestinian determination to gain an education within their homeland. This fact has not escaped the Israeli military authorities who have forcibly closed the universities no less than 24 times since their inception. At the moment, Bir Zeit university is closed for four months after the army opened fire on a demonstration killing one student. He is the fourth student to be shot dead by the Israeli army during protests at Bir Zeit.

The Israelis use many other means of disrupting university life in the occupied territories. Below are just a few of them:

— Read blocks are often employed to create a de facto closure. The universities are also subject to arbitrary searches — normally carried out in the form of night raids.

— Harassment of students: especially student council members. This year alone, four students have been deported. Others are frequently town

arrested and others are just arrested for a few days and then released; about 60 per cent of Bir Zeit students have been picked up by the army at some point, and in the academic year 1985-86, 96 per cent were released without charge.

— Censorship 1,600 books have been banned from importation to the occupied territories. Benvenisti states that: "While the censored publications are only three or four per cent of all imported books, they constitute 100 per cent of the literature expressing Palestinian national aspirations and tradition."

A recent example of the limitations on what Palestinian academics can write is the case of Prof. Saeb Erakat the head of public relations at An Najah University. Prof. Erakat was convicted of "incitement" by a military court on 6 April 1987. His "crime" was to publish an article in a university newsletter, in which he said "The Palestinians have to suffer, refuse and resist till we get back our freedom." The word "resist" was judged to be an incitement. Prof. Erakat could face up to three years in prison for this "crime" if his appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court fails.

— Financial pressures are applied in the form of high customs duties and VAT on books and equipment. Imported materials are taxed at a rate equivalent to about 50 per cent of their cost price. There is also 15 per cent VAT on books and 2 per cent "Peace for Galilee" tax.

— Military Order 854 introduced in 1980 has never been fully implemented but gives the Israeli authorities the power to assume full control over who will teach what to whom in the Palestinian universities.

Conclusion

Measuring the "quality of life" is inevitably a problematic undertaking. In the final analysis, statistics cannot convey the realities of living under occupation, just as no improvement in the standard of living can compensate for, or justify, military occupation.

So here, briefly, one Palestinian resident of Qalqiya explains the realities of the Israeli presence for him and many others like him:

A Qalqiya resident speaks...

In 1948, Qalqiya lost all its best land, which was incorporated into Israel, so its people began cultivating the poorer land which they still had. They began to install water pumps and plant citrus trees. Although half the people were refugees, in that they'd lost their land, there was no refugee-camp in Qalqiya because of what the people did.

Then came the Suez War, in 1956. Actually, this was a war against Egypt and Qalqiya. Nearly 60 people in my town died when the Israelis attacked it. I remember that one woman lost three kids and went mad.

In 1963 the Israelis bombed two petrol stations in the middle of the city. In 1964 people began to do well out of their agriculture, so in 1965 the Israelis came and destroyed 35 water pumps. They left leaflets in Arabic accusing Qalqiya people of carrying out attacks on Israel.

In 1966, people were selling their fruit for a very good price. They were very optimistic about their future. Then the 1967 war destroyed everything.

In 1967 about 80 people died in one hour of shelling. The Israelis hoped to clear the whole town and many of the people did flee. The town was 60 per cent destroyed by bulldozers, dynamite and fire. Everything else was looted. But the people returned and set up tents. Then the Israelis brought lorryloads of looted goods back. People had to go and claim back their property. They had to swear on the Koran that whatever they claimed was theirs. When the war started, about 25,000 people had fled.

In 1968 people got a little more optimistic, because of Karamah. They got more organised politically.

During the 1965 attack there was a teacher who lived in a small building in an orchard near the border. The Israeli soldiers came and got ready to blow the place up, but he woke up. When they found out that he was there with one of his children, they took away the explosives and left them.

A few weeks ago, when the settlers rioted in Qalqiya, his house was the first one they came to. He looked out of the window and saw them all around his house. He told me it was like going back in time, over 20 years back.

Free passage in the Gulf? By what legal authority?

By Jonathan Power

NEW YORK — Rocking around in the waves of the Gulf crisis is a question that will not get washed away even if the Iran-Iraq war ends tomorrow. But what authority does the United States insist on freedom of passage? Is it the doctrine of freedom of the seas laid down by the Dutch jurist, Hugo Grotius, in 1609? Well, no, because it was a U.S. president, Harry Truman who announced that the doctrine had had its day when, in 1945, he proclaimed U.S. jurisdiction over the seabed resources of the continental shelf.

Later, Chile, Peru and Ecuador raised the stakes by claiming 200-mile (320-kilometre) maritime zones and seizing U.S. tuna boats fishing in their waters. Is it the Law of the Sea, the great negotiating text fostered by the United Nations with the enthusiastic participation of the United States, which carefully chiseled an accommodation between new coastal jurisdictions and traditional high seas freedom? No, because one of the early acts of President Reagan was to turn his back on nine years' work and pull the United States out of the negotiations.

In short, there is a legal limbo. While the United States calls for "freedom of navigation" in the Gulf, much of the world notes quietly that Washington appears prepared to call on international law only when it suits its own purposes. If the United States can interpret sea law as it chooses, so will everyone else. It is just a question of time.

The Law of the Sea treaty was arguably the most complex piece of international law ever negotiated. The negotiations began in an era when many coastal states appeared to have an insatiable desire to bring large areas of the ocean under their control for political and economic purposes. It looked as if the lunge toward 200-mile economic zones might turn into a quest for 200-mile territorial zones that would destroy forever the concept of the old 3-mile limit, which effectively allowed for free passage through most of the world's narrow straits.

The Law of the Sea treaty was a bargain. There were commitments to roll back claims of territorial jurisdiction wider than 12 miles; to write into international law the right to free passage through 100 straits narrower than 24 miles (this to apply to all ships, military or civilian, on the surface or submerged); and, while recognising 200-mile economic zones, to prohibit congruent restrictions on the passage of ships or the overflights of planes.

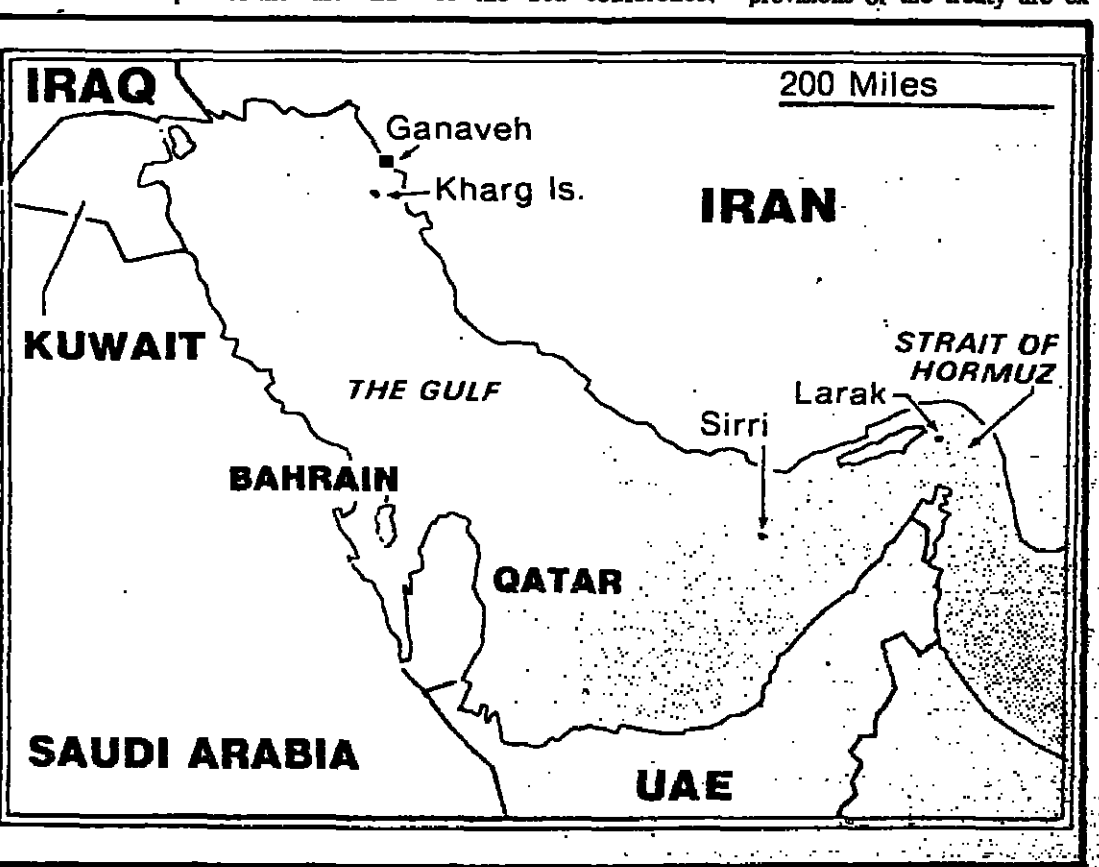
The other part of the bargain, demanded by some coastal states and small landlocked nations, was the right of access to the vast mineral deposits on the floor of

the ocean outside 200-mile economic zones.

It was this that sank the Law of the Sea conference. The Reagan administration could not accept the demand of Third World nations to allocate part of the vast

ocean floor to an international body that would mine on behalf of developing nations.

The conference is now, in the words of Thomas Clingan, a former U.S. representative to the Law of the Sea conference,



"brain dead." But to the extent that provisions of the Law of the Sea treaty codify customary international law, does it not impose an obligation, even if unsigned? It is difficult to state just which provisions of the treaty are ex-

pressions of custom and which are new practice. Nowhere is the issue more cloudy than on the vexed issue of straits.

The underlying problem lies in the distinction between what the lawyers call "nonsuspensible innocent passage" and "transit passage." The former is the regime of the 1958 Geneva convention but it does not satisfy the needs of modern naval powers. The latter, which includes the right of submerged transit and overflight, is new. Unless one is a signatory of the Law of the Sea, there is probably no basis in law for claiming the right.

The United States is attempting to circumnavigate this problem by falling back on one of the oldest principles of international law, the basic right of international communication. Yet America faces a charge of inconsistency. It no longer abides by customary law on economic issues such as jurisdiction over seabed resources of the continental shelf. Why should other states recognise its position on free navigation through straits and narrow waterways?

Without the treaty, there is no effective forum to resolve such differences. The Law of the Sea could have been a magna carta for the 21st century but the Reagan administration chose otherwise. Mr. Reagan will reap what he sows. — International Herald Tribune

Social, political obstacles hinder Jordanian writers' creative thinking

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

"The writer's role is not free of difficult duties. By definition he cannot put himself today in the service of those who make history, he is at the service of those who suffer it" — Albert Camus.

AMMAN — Many writers and literary critics contend that it would be difficult for Jordanian writers to put themselves at the service of those who suffer history and to contribute to the development of society as long as they are restricted by social and political obstacles.

According to Mrs. Leila Sharaf, co-guest of information, "Literature does not necessarily have to find a solution to society's problems, but the writer should be able to raise people's minds and souls above their suffering to levels of vision and clarity."

As Mrs. Sharaf sees it, this uplifting will lead to an understanding of the purpose of society and creative thinking which could be used to visualise a better society and plan accordingly.

Mrs. Sharaf considers that the restrictions on the literary movement have been detrimental to the growth and development of society. "Without these freedoms, a cultural movement cannot grow, and consequently new visions and alternatives to problems faced by society cannot be offered to the politicians and planners of the country," she said.

Literary obstacles

One of the first obstacles was discussed by Dr. Abdel Rahman Yaghy, professor of Arab literature at the University of Jordan. Dr. Yaghy agrees that literature should be a means of change. However, he says that creative thinking in Jordan has been hindered by the gap which exists between the readers and the writers.

"Writers are usually not of the class they write about. How can they understand what change will entail if they have no contact with the camps and the working classes, the classes who know exactly what their problems and solutions are?" asked Dr. Yaghy.

He explained that there are no avenues of expression for the working and lower classes such as unions and clubs to air their grievances and propose their solutions.

"In the Arab World, establishing such avenues does not seem likely because governments in the region do not allow for any voice of dissent to escape," he said, and that the same principle applies to literature which voices any opposition. "Therefore all you hear is that the political, social and economic situations are good," Dr. Yaghy stated.

Although Mrs. Sharaf says she feels that a good writer should be able to convey the lives and sufferings of the poor to the public, her opinion is that writers are not allowed to offer differing opinions. As a result, the false information reaching the public has created a gap which further hinders productive thinking.

Credibility gap

"There is a big credibility gap between the state and the people. The press and media, which have become the mouthpieces of governments, are still talking to the public as though we live in the 1930's and 40's," she said, adding, "people have become too sophisticated to believe such language."

A short story writer and journalist, Suhair Al Tel, stressed on the lack of freedom of expression in writing. She finds it particularly restrictive for women.

"It is forbidden for both men and women to write on religion, sex and politics, and if a woman writes on the first two, society's reaction is much worse," Ms. Tel charges.

A woman writer cannot express herself fully nor fulfil her duty to society, when she is living in a traditional and oppressive society which does not allow her to reflect the social realities and rejects any new thoughts and ideas, especially if it comes from a woman, she said.

A writer of poetry and philosophy and a literary critic, Amineh Adwan, said that writers have tried to tackle serious social and political issues, ranging from freedom of choice to the Lebanese war to divisions in the Arab World.

"When writers show these realities, the solution may be in their writings. People in charge should take these situations we put forth and find the solution. They should not fight us and try to ruin our reputation. Everything I write something I think 'What will I have to pay?' Mrs. Adwan said. "But I write regardless since I feel it is my duty."

Mrs. Insa Kalaji a short story writer preparing her PhD on woman writers of short stories and novels in greater Syria at the London School of Oriental and African Studies said: "Perhaps writers have participated in the development of the society more than what is obvious by revealing the ugly face of society when it comes to marriage, loneliness and other social matters."

Anti-reading sentiments

However, when a citizen knows there are certain subjects that are censored, "anti-reading sentiments grow and are presently prevailing in the country,"

Mrs. Sharaf noted. She added, "basically, it is an excuse; admittedly on political issues, censorship does exist, but there are a lot of books on history, culture and nature, if people want to read."

Mrs. Sharaf judges that much of the blame lies with the education system. "Children are just asked to memorise rather than learn the pleasures of reading by looking up information and understanding the subjects; the result is that children become bored with reading and run away from it," she said.

Parents usually do not provide alternatives nor the appropriate atmosphere, she continued: "Hardly any families have libraries in their homes, and if they want to take their children to a library in town they will find only two." Mrs. Sharaf criticised the fact that bookshops in town have been reduced to everything but places for books.

Mrs. Adwan charged that books play a minimal role in the lives of most Jordanians because "society does not consider literature important and the love for reading is not encouraged in the family nor at schools. People do not consider reading as a means to build themselves, their awareness, society and nation. People feel that whether they read or not, they will be the same."

Supporting Mrs. Adwan, Mrs. Sharaf further explained that "we only have an artificial middle class in Jordan with no deep cultural interest. Such a class rose after the oil boom and does not have the traditional characteristics of the middle class which according to Mrs. Sharaf, is built on education, cultural life, experience and some money."

"People here do not have as a priority acquiring books, records and old pieces of our tradition and history, usually its money which makes the person," she said.

Other reasons for a low number of readership are the present deteriorating economic conditions and the high prices of books.

Mrs. Adwan commented: "It is a vicious circle, people do not read and therefore books are more expensive, and with the economic situation worsening, people would rather buy bread than a book."

She added that television had replaced books as a means of entertainment in many households and that the existence of illiteracy in some areas, further reduced the numbers of readers. "With no readership, how can the writer transmit his or her ideas to the people and contribute to the development of the society?" asked Mrs. Adwan. In addition since a lot of writer's books are not bought, Mrs. Adwan said that writers are diverted from their

specialisation "because they must hold two or more jobs in order to eat."

Mrs. Adwan related another way the quality of the writer's work is often lessened. "He or she must print, distribute, publish, and advertise his or her work. This is a crisis because not only is this process time consuming and frustrating, but it distracts the attention of the writer from his or her work," she said.

She blamed the cultural and information institutions and the media for not playing any significant role in introducing the local writers nor in promoting their work. "There is no criticism which would help in developing a productive and progressive movement. Readers cannot learn about local works if there is no magazine to criticise the work," Mrs. Adwan said, adding that the only literary magazine is put out by the Ministry of Information once every six months.

"Rarely do you see a book criticised on the basis of some objective standard, and when a new book is published, television and radio give the book and the writer very little exposure, if any," added Mrs. Sharaf.

She noted that the development of the Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA) (the association was dissolved by government on June 17) and writers' corners in the newspapers have played a role in introducing some writers. She considered the JWA a landmark in getting the writers together and pushing forward the cultural life in Jordan.

A few months ago, the JWA proposed the establishment of a cultural magazine, publication houses, and housing for writers, teaching local literature in schools, allowing freedom of thought and expression as means to breed the love of reading, stressing the importance of reading and creating awareness in the people in order to improve the literary movement in the country.

Corners have become platforms for writers to present their works, Mrs. Sharaf said, giving Mu'nis Razzaz, a novel writer who writes in the Arabic daily Al Dustour, and Zulaikha Abu Rishbeh, a poetess who writes in Al Rai as examples.

The short cultural history in the Kingdom and the lack of institutionalisation of the literary movement, has led to obscurity for most Jordanian writers in the Arab World.

"Writers in Jordan have not achieved significant standing, with women writers achieving even less recognition," said Mrs. Sharaf.

However, with establishment of the University of Jordan, 25 years ago, Jordan is witnessing a new generation with increased awareness of cultural life. These local writers are being introduced to a wider Arab scene through such events as the Jerash Festival and conferences on literature and art held in the Kingdom, said Mrs. Sharaf.

Although there are several barriers obstructing writers' drive to create a vital literary movement, the potential and will are there, according to the literary critics and writers the Jordan Times interviewed.

If allowed to fulfill their potential, an escape from the mundane and an emergence of new visions and realities, which could be used for the development of the country, would be at the fingertips of all.

Tanzanians see benefits of change

By George Nyembela

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania — Since its introduction six years ago, the Soil Erosion Control and Agroforestry project — known by its initials SECAP — in the Lushoto district of Tanzania has attracted the support of the Wasmahia people who live in the area because of the tangible results it has already produced.

The project's aim has been to change the traditional agriculture and livestock-raising habits of the area, which are largely to blame for the serious soil erosion and deforestation in most parts of western Usambara.

According to the project's German manager, Reinhard Woyteck, contour planning, the use of compost manure and crop rotation have been introduced in an effort to improve the quality and quantity of crops and to curb the menace of soil erosion. The scheme is sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Peasants are encouraged to keep cattle and feed them in stalls, instead of herding them indiscriminately in the fields, as was the case in the past. One advantage of the new method is that peasants can collect ample cowdung manure from the stalls, while at the same time the cattle cannot hoof away the soil. Moreover, the use of cowdung manure is expected to liberate the peasants from over-dependence on chemical fertilisers, which are

costly and not always easily available.

SECAP officials say that the notable success in soil erosion control measures in Lushoto district is to a large extent due to two types of contours introduced in the highlands. The first are known as macrocontours; these involve planting rows of grass along horizontal lines. The others are "microcontours" lines, which are horizontal ridges planted with Guatemalan grass, leguminous browsing bushes and trees.

Grass and fruit trees are planted ten metres apart to strengthen each macrocontour, enabling it to play a dual role of preventing soil erosion and providing food.

Making the macrocontour lines is not a simple task. That is why it has been necessary to introduce incentives for the peasants who are responsible for building horizontal ridges 2,000 metres long. The major incentive is access to improved cattle breeds.

The experts believe that the livestock component of the project has the greatest potential for boosting the area's socio-economic life. Fodder planting helps curb soil erosion, while the improved cattle produce milk to be drunk and manure to enrich the soil.

After planting a minimum of 2,000 metres of tropical grass in contour lines, peasants are allowed to construct stalls cap-

able of housing three cows. The cooperative Rural Development Bank gives credits for the construction of stalls. An improved heifer is delivered to an individual farmer when he completes the planting of 3,000 metres of contour line.

So far, 70 cowsheds have been constructed and over a hundred improved dairy cows supplied. In addition, over 20 breeding centres are established in a village when enough fodder is grown to feed the bull. The pasture to feed the bull is prepared by the whole village, while the village chairman becomes the supervisor.

The success of the scheme is shown by the eagerness of local farmers to participate. In just one season, more than 100 peasants planted about three kilometres of contour lines each, in order to fulfil the requirements for applying for credit.

It is hoped that by the time the present stage of the scheme comes to a close next year, 900,000 trees and 1,500 kilometres of contour lines of fodder will have been planted.

It is also envisaged that approximately 525 hectares of land will be receiving regular organic manuring enabling an increase in crop productivity, especially for maize. In principle, 300 cowsheds will have been constructed and the peasants should be obtaining a total yield of over 1,500 tonnes

of milk. The loan that peasants receive for the cattle is repayable within five years of their starting to milk the cow. This is not a serious financial burden. Indeed, one Yoghoi peasant in the scheme, Charles Mchome, says that the 250 Tanzanian shillings a month that he is required to pay to the bank is too little.

He says that as the improved cattle produce an average of 1,800 litres of milk a year, the monthly repayment could be raised and the repayment periods thus shortened.

Agricultural diversification is stressed in the SECAP project, both to enable peasants to meet their daily food needs and to avert hunger caused by harvest failure should unfavourable weather or diseases affect one crop.

Special importance is given to fruit trees, which have long tap roots capable of extracting rich nutrients and water from deeper soil layers. They are also very good at pumping the nutrients to the top-soil, where they can be used by annual crops whose roots do not go very deep.

To facilitate the fruit tree planting exercise, 20,000 seedlings — including 5,000 avocados, 2,000 oyster nuts, 3,000 sole papayas and 5,000 apples, peaches, plums and guava — have been grown in nurseries — Earthscan feature.

Play on corruption raises Zimbabwean gov't ire

By Lawrence Bartlett
The Associated Press

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe — Born in the backyard of a low-cost housing estate, a karate club-turned-drama-group has created a controversial hit.

The government-backed National Arts Foundation funded the group's latest play. But now it has denied permission for the play, "Workshop Negative," to be performed outside Zimbabwe.

The satire was written by Cont Mhlanga, 29, a factory worker, black belt karate expert and self-taught dramatist.

The play focuses on corruption among political leaders. It depicts the relationship between two adversaries, one white and one black, in Zimbabwe's seven-year war for independence. Both suffer through poor working conditions, poor safety standards, long hours and other forms of exploitation under their black employer, a professed Communist and blatant capitalist.

Zimbabwe, the formerly white-ruled British colony of Rhodesia, won its independence in 1980 and adopted an avowedly Socialist policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.

The play, which has achieved both critical and popular acclaim, is about "people who preach Socialism and practise Capitalism," Mhlanga said in an interview.

The play angered the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, David Karimanzira, who said it depicted Socialism and portrayed the country's political leaders as corrupt.

His ministry endorsed a decision by the National Arts Foundation, which funded the play, not to allow it to be performed outside the country. The minister saw the play after it had almost completed a national tour.

"The play does not depict a true reflection of the political developments in Zimbabwe," he said in an interview with the state-controlled Herald news-

paper. Mhlanga, however, said the play is meant to show "what ordinary factory workers like me are thinking."

"I am not against the authorities," he said. "How can I be attacking Socialism when the play attacks the abuse of Socialism?"

"The trouble is that politicians everywhere like to open their mouths and close their ears," he said.

Mhlanga said he got hooked on acting seven years ago when the karate class he taught at a community hall was bumped from its space by a drama workshop.

"I didn't know what a drama workshop was, but I had nothing else to do so I paid 20 cents (12 U.S. cents) and went in," he said. He started weaving stories about "good guys and bad guys" into his karate lessons and got his class involved.

A few months later, the high school-educated son of peasant workers wrote his first play. "It had a lot of karate and very

little dialogue," he said. Since then he has written a play a year, performing in the townships and rural areas, sometimes putting on a show under a tree after beating drums to announce the performance.

Gradually Mhlanga's plays lost their martial arts focus, although his casts are drawn almost entirely from his karate pupils. In 1985 his play "Here is the Man" won five awards, including best original script, in Zimbabwe's national theatre festival.

"My plays were always set in the townships but I felt that sometimes our drama did not touch the people's lives closely enough," Mhlanga said. "I listened, and realised politics did — that's how 'Workshop Negative' was born."

Mhlanga says audience reaction during the play's national tour was good.

However, he still is trying to get permission for his group, Amakhosi (the royals), to perform outside the country.

How Romantic ideal ended bigamy debate

By Horst Zimmermann

THE law in W. Germany states that each person may only have one partner in marriage. But 200 years ago there was considerable hector argument for and against polygamy.

Two royal tastes of polygamy brought this explosive theme into public discussion, according to Paul Mikat, 62, professor of law at Bochum University.

Mikat, a former North Rhine-Westphalia Education Minister, for many years a CDU member of the Bundestag and now a government adviser, presented his findings on polygamy at the North Rhine-Westphalia Scientific Academy in Dusseldorf.

He discovered that monogamy was common among the Teutons in pre-Christian times. The only

exceptions were among the nobility.

For a long time, under the influence of Christianity, there was no dispute that the law of God and Nature demanded monogamy.

Then came the Landgrave Philipp of Hesse, one of the most important supporters of the Reformation. He sought to take as his second wife the beautiful lady-in-waiting Margarete von der Saale.

According to Mikat Martin Luther agreed to a dispensation on the grounds that bigamy was better than divorce.

The Landgrave married on 5 March 1540 and it should have remained secret. But soon it was common knowledge all over Germany that the prince had concluded a second marriage with

the approval of the Church. This set rolling the discussion on polygamy.

This reached its height in the 17th century when famous lawyers could see no reason why polygamy was against the law. Both partners in marriage could do what they pleased. This was the first signs of equal opportunity for both sexes.

Some learned lawyers would not only approve of a man having several wives but a wife having several husbands, polyandry.

Legislators did not let themselves be impressed by the discussion. At times they threatened to behead anyone found guilty of bigamy.

Mikat found an interesting point of view from Carl Gottlieb Svarez, creator of Prussian Com-

mon Law of 1794.

The learned Svarez said that nature had nothing against a man having more than one wife if he could feed her and provided he had the constitution able "to fulfil what was the aim of marriage" with many wives then polygamy was allowable.

Nevertheless the state's command to monogamy was wise, he believed, because it brought about peace and harmony in family. It also prevented rich men from having many wives that could give rise to the danger of the depletion of the lower classes.

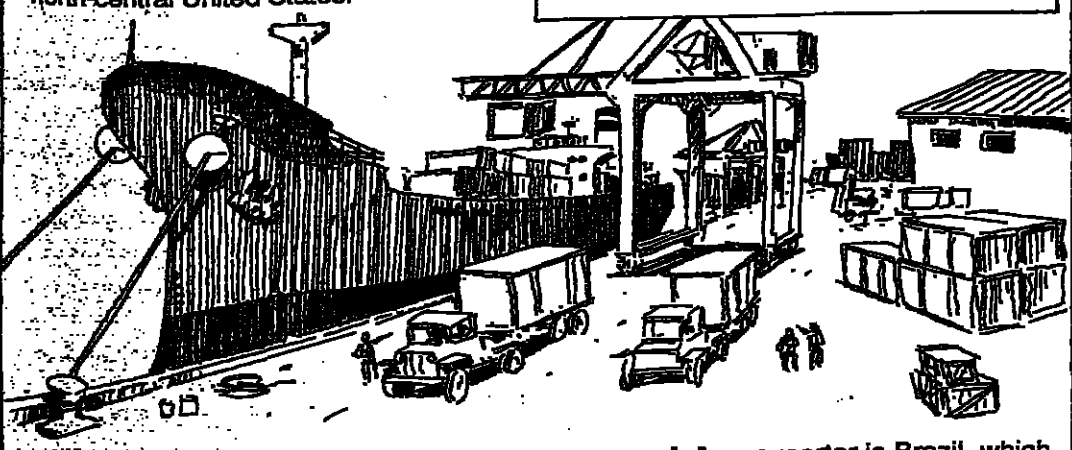
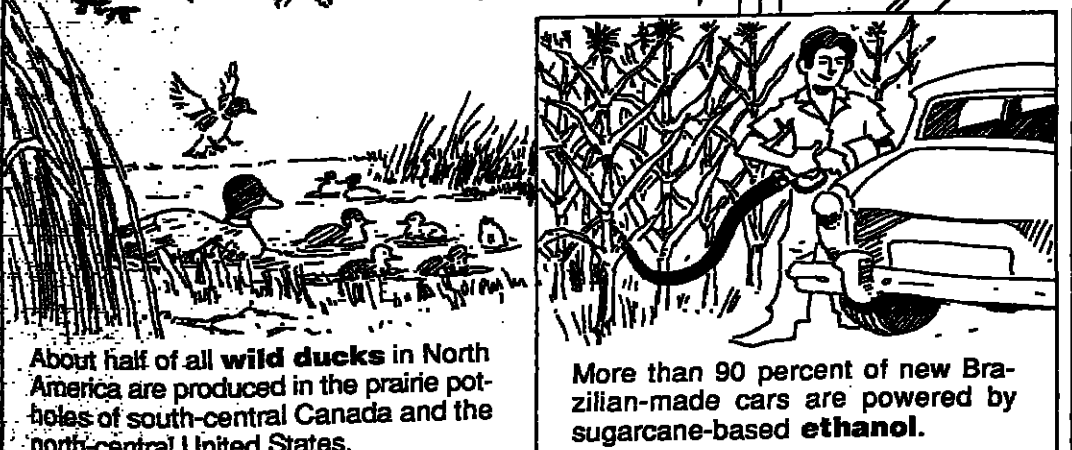
The whole discussion came to an end with the Romantic idea of the "internal unity between two people" as being the highest ideal of marriage — Stuttgarter Nachrichten.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC

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English athletes stave in international tourney

PORTSMOUTH, England (AP) — European 100-metre champion Linford Christie scorched to victory in 10.16 seconds Saturday as England defeated Italy and Czechoslovakia in the Dairy Crest International Track and Field meet.

But there was disappointment for former Olympic champion Steve Ovett who trailed home fifth in the mile.

"It's great to be in such form with the European Cup coming up in Prague next weekend," said Christie after winning his race.

"I'm not 100 per cent race sharp but I must be in with a chance of doing the double in Prague."

His joy was in marked contrast to Ovett's grim face. The former 800-metre Olympic champion was expected to win the mile race easily and looked poised to deliver his final kick as he tracked leader Steve Crabb.

But the acceleration never came and he stumbled home in 4:00.72 minutes, failing to become the first Briton to record 30 sub-four minute miles.

"I must have trained too hard this week because I felt heavy and tight," Ovett said.

Despite his defeat, Ovett could win a surprise place in the England team for Prague. John Gladwin, the first-choice 1,500-metre representative, suffered a recurrence of back injury.

England won Saturday's men's meet with 177 points, from Czechoslovakia's 136 and Italy's 101.

In the women's event, world record holder Fatima Whitbread hurled the fourth longest javelin throw of her career despite carrying a number of injuries.

Swiss cyclist takes lead in Tour de Suisse

BRUEGG, Switzerland (AP) — Switzerland's Guido Winterberg erased a nearly two-minute deficit to oust Acacio da Silva of Portugal from the overall lead in a double stage of the Tour de Suisse cycling competition on Saturday.

Winterberg placed eighth in the fourth leg, a 25-kilometre (14-mile) individual time trial through the Basel Region that was won by West Germany's Dietrich Thurau in 30 minutes, 59 seconds.

Dutch racer Teun van Vliet took the fifth stage that followed, clocking 3 hours, 19 minutes and 59 seconds over the 129.5-kilometre (81-mile) stretch from Basel to Bruegg in cool and occasionally rainy weather.

Johnson captures 1st place in U.S. gymnastics tourney

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Scott Johnson amassed 57.5 points in the optional Friday night to capture first place in the men's competition at the U.S. Gymnastics Championship.

Johnson's total of 114.70 points in the optional and compulsory events edged Charles Lakes, who had 112.65.

Tim Daggett, the defending national champion, finished third with 112.45 points in his first competition since suffering a career-threatening neck injury last February.

Johnson had piled up 57.20 points to lead in the compulsory on Thursday. His only flaw in the optional came on the dismount on the horizontal bar, his last event.

"Personally, I've never been ranked number 1 anywhere. This is a great accomplishment to know that you are the best in the country in what you do," the 25-year-old Johnson said. "Now I can say my gymnastics career is totally complete — except for one thing, an Olympic gold medal."

Sukova edges Navratilova, clinches Pilkington tourney

EASTBOURNE, England (AP) — Helena Sukova hit back from 0-5 down in the first set to end Martina Navratilova's 69-match winning streak on English grass and win the \$200,000 Pilkington Glass Women's Grasscourt Tennis Championship Saturday.

The 22-year-old Czechoslovak, runner up for the past two years, beat Navratilova, who had won the five previous championships, 7-6, 6-3.

The last time the 30-year-old American lost on grass in England was the 1981 Wimbledon semifinals, when she lost to another Czechoslovak, Hana Mandlikova.

Next week, Navratilova goes for her sixth consecutive Wimbledon title, but this defeat means she has not won a major title for six months, although she remains number 1 on the rankings list.

Sukova, whose only previous victory over Navratilova coincidentally was on grass at the 1984 Australian Championships, also made a dramatic recovery in her semifinal against another American, Chris Evert.

In that match on Friday, she was 2-5 down in the final set but hit back to win it 8-6.

In the final, she dropped her first service games and fell 5-0 behind to a player who had been on court 90 minutes earlier.

But Sukova broke back twice and forced a tie break which she won 7-5 when Navratilova double-faulted.

Sukova broke Navratilova's serve in the second game of the second stanza and opened up a 3-0 lead.

Navratilova steadied her game and got to 3-5, but Sukova clinched the title on the fourth match point of her own service game, when Navratilova hit a return of serve wide.

Earlier, Navratilova went close to a semifinal defeat against her doubles partner and countrywoman, Pam Shriver.

Shriver, the number 4 seed, squandered a 2-0, 40-0 lead in the final set of a match held over from the previous day because of rain.

New Zealand reigns world rugby union

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — Discipline, the foundation of New Zealand rugby union and the quality so often missing in the French game, was the decisive factor in the All-Blacks World Cup triumph over France on Saturday.

So said New Zealand skipper David Kirk as he chatted happily to a packed news conference following New Zealand's commanding 29-9 win at Eden Park.

And so agreed a more sombre Jacques Fouroux, coach of the losing finalists.

"I felt we controlled the game better than they did," said Kirk, one of New Zealand's three try scorers. "Tactically we kept it very tight."

Fouroux said France had decided to stick to their philosophy "of good rugby and enjoying rugby."

"But today the All-Blacks showed discipline was necessary," he concluded.

Stern discipline and sounder technique provided the basis of New Zealand's 20-point margin over the European champions.

France lacked the inspiration of their famous 30-24 semifinal win over Australia a week ago but New Zealand were a different type of opponent altogether.

Their first try after 15 minutes exemplified both France's fatal tendency to blunder and New Zealand's remorseless exploitation of any opposition weakness.

New Zealand flyhalf Grant Fox, who kicked 17 points Friday, attempted what would have been his second dropped goal.

The kick was charged down and the ball ran loose. French left wing Patrice Lagisquet, who seemed more conscious of his opposite number John Kirwan thundering down upon him than the need to clear the ball, fumbled badly and flanker Michael Jones instantly pounced to grab the ball and score.

Perhaps the most significant difference in the teams' approach came five minutes into the second half with New Zealand 12-3 ahead and facing the wind.

The all-black forwards drove deep into French territory and hooker Sean Fitzpatrick was

dislodged just short of the line. As Fitzpatrick lay on the ground, French captain Daniel Dubroca aimed a deliberate kick which Australian referee Kerry Fitzgerald was quick to spot.

Fox kicked the penalty, New Zealand kept up the pressure and within moments Kirk and Kirwan had both scored and the cup was safely in New Zealand's hands.

Kirk said this period had been the turning point and admitted he thought there would have been only a five or six point difference between the teams.

"This is the best all-black side I have ever played with," he said.

Fouroux agreed. "They played the best rugby in the world, they deserve to be world champions."

As Fouroux spoke, television monitors showed a rowdy haka (war chant) breaking out in the all-black dressing room led by reserve loose forward Brooke.

Prominent among the revellers was all-black coach and former captain Brian Lochore, allowing himself to show genuine delight for the first time since the tournament began over a month ago.

W. Berlin offers to host Olympics

BERLIN (AP) — West Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said his city is prepared to host the 1988 Summer Olympics if the unrest in Seoul forces officials to move the games away from the South Korean capital, a newspaper reported Saturday.

In an interview with the mass-circulation Bild Am Sonntag newspaper, Diepgen said Olympic events would have to be held in both East Berlin and West Berlin if the games were to be held in Germany.

"The Olympic Games in all of Berlin — that is truly an Olympic idea," Bild Am Sonntag quoted Diepgen as saying.

"That would be a sign of reconciliation" between the Communist and capitalist halves of the city.

Berlin is prepared to host the 1988 games if asked, the mass-circulation newspaper quoted Diepgen as saying in an interview slated for publication in its Sunday editions.

Experts were telexed to other news organizations in advance. The mayor noted that West Berlin already had several sporting venues that could host Olympic events, including the Olympic Stadium, built for the 1936 summer games.

But Diepgen, echoing statements by members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), also said he believed the games would be held in Seoul as planned, despite the increasingly violent anti-government protests in the South Korean capital for the past 11 days.

During his brief visit to West Berlin last week, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said he hoped that the Olympic games could one day be held in both sides of this divided city.

Brazilian soccer team to face Ecuador in exhibition game

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's soccer team will face Ecuador on Sunday in an exhibition game to prepare for America Cup competition, the South American Championship.

The exhibition game, to be held in the southern coastal city of Florianopolis, 706 miles (1,174 kilometres) southwest of Rio de Janeiro, will be one of only two warm-ups for Brazil before facing Venezuela on June 28 in the team's first America Cup game.

Despite inclement weather at the national team's training camp in the mountain resort of Teresopolis, 57 miles (95 kms) northwest of Rio, the players spent the

past week fine-tuning their game plan.

Attacker Careca and midfielder Rai, called by one newspaper "the new, creative double," were standouts.

Careca, the highest goal scorer and standout on Brazil's 1986 World Cup team, trained well despite a three-month layoff and recent hospitalisation for a lung problem.

"The national team is on the right track doing the necessary renovation work," said Sandro Moreyra, sports columnist with Rio's Jornal do Brasil. "The (Sunday) game will be a test whether (coach) Carlos Alberto Silva can maintain the team that travelled to Europe."

Second-seeded Skoff knocked out in quarter-final

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Second-seeded Horst Skoff of Austria, ranked 35th in the world, was ousted 6-7, 4-6 by unseeded West German Pavel Vojtesek in Friday's quarter-final of the international Nabisco Grand Prix Tennis Tournament.

Skoff served five aces in the first set of a two-hour match, and broke the West German's service twice but wound up losing the tie-breaker on a double fault.

Vojtesek took control after breaking service in the first game of the second set, flicking the ball deep and short as he wrapped up

the match on red-clay at the Athens Tennis Club.

"I like playing Skoff because I can react well to his speed and top-spin, but once I'd won the tiebreaker I knew I'd broken him," he said.

The West German, ranked 185th in the world, will play fourth-seeded Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina in the semifinals.

In an earlier quarter-final, Argentinian Francisco Yunis, ranked 85th in the world, defeated Jaro Navratil of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 7-5.

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Pair ends round-the-world trip in lightweight planes

SPOKANE, Washington (AP) — John Cook, a flight instructor and retired marine pilot, says he still gets a kick out of flying — even after a one-year, around-the-world excursion in a home-built aircraft.

Cook, 57, and his former flight student, Ed Roman, 30, a logger, touched down at Spokane Airway Airport about 6 p.m. Friday (0100 GMT Saturday) in separate

lightweight Long-Eze aircraft.

For the two, it was the completion of a global tour that began June 18, 1986, in Spokane.

They say they are the first to fly around the world in Long-Eze aircraft, designed by Burt Rutan, who is best known for his design of the Voyager, the spidery, flexible craft that circled the globe without refuelling.

Cook's and Roman's Long-Eze planes, made of a fiberglass and foam composite, each weigh 800 to 900 pounds (363 to 408 kg).

Cook said what first began as an idea to build a gas-efficient plane, then two, suddenly turned into a "can-you-top-this" affair.

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- Evaluation of tender.
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- In checking technical specifications of special materials and engineering or laboratory equipments proposed by the designer.
- Make available technical staff for supervisory and project management advice during the construction phase.
- Developing and implementing a computer based project management information system to provide budgetary and time planning information during all phases of execution.
- Budgeting and expenditure.
- Developing solutions to technical problems during the construction phase.

This prequalification is for the various projects on the campus of the Jordan University of Science and Technology with all the related electro-mechanical and external works all as defined in the drawings, bills of quantities, specifications and conditions of contract prepared for these projects.

The following details should be listed in the prequalification documents such as:

- Organisation
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All documents should be submitted to the University before July 8th, 1987.

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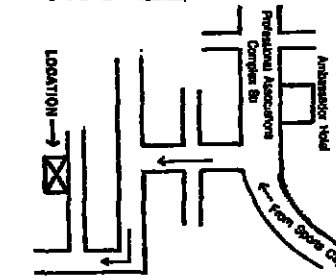
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Sudan boosts budget cash to service foreign debts

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan, its economy hit by lower dollar earnings and years of mismanagement, has set aside \$781.6 million to service foreign debts in 1987/88, according to budget plans presented to parliament.

This compares with \$200 million earmarked for debt repayment in the year ending on June 30. Sudan has a foreign debt totalling \$10.6 billion.

Finance Minister Beshir Omar, presenting plans to parliament, put the budget deficit at 2.88 billion pounds (\$1.15 billion), up slightly from \$2.85 billion in 1986/87.

He said the budget would be the first in a four-year economic recovery plan to be announced by the end of December.

Of the \$781.6 million set aside for debt servicing, Mr. Omar said \$574.6 million would go to principal and \$207 million to interest payments.

Sudan, an impoverished country of 25 million people still reeling from drought in 1984/85, has an annual debt liability of \$900 million. Khartoum-based Western experts say.

Mr. Omar said last March it would be difficult, "if not impossible," for Sudan to meet scheduled debt repayments of \$4.17 billion over the next five years.

He said Sudan was \$2.6 billion in arrears on debt repayments in the first half of this year.

The experts say Sudan owes 23 per cent of its foreign debt to

Western government creditors, 32 per cent to governments of Eastern Bloc and Arab countries and 21 per cent to commercial banks, with most of the rest owed to multilateral sources.

Sudan, unable to fully service its debts since 1985 and declared ineligible last year by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for fresh loans, has been servicing only creditors banned from extending fresh loans to recipients in arrears.

Mr. Omar, in office since May 1986, said government revenue in 1987/88 would total 3.9 billion pounds (\$1.56 billion). Expenditure was put at 6.79 billion pounds (\$2.71 billion).

He said the budget deficit would be fully covered by loans, government deposits and other sources.

The government planned to spend 1.53 billion pounds (\$612 million) on development and 25 million pounds on investment.

Mr. Omar said 1987/88 defence spending figures would not be made public. But he said some 940 million pounds (\$376 million) went on the armed forces in the current financial year.

Sudan's army has been fighting a war against rebels in southern Sudan since 1983.

Mr. Omar said 375 million pounds (\$150 million) would be spent on subsidising sugar and wheat-flour prices in 1987/88. He also proposed increases in local and imported cigarette prices of 25 and 60 per cent, respectively.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, June 13, '87 and ending Wednesday, June 17, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	1750	2188	1.250	1.250	1.000
Petra Bank	2700	5828	2.100	2.100	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	4514	9261	2.100	2.050	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	6302	10607	1.680	1.660	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	396	514	1.300	1.290	1.000
Housing Bank	5427	8967	1.650	1.650	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	730	16073	23.000	21.550	1.000
Arab Amman Bank	2289	39979	17.430	17.400	5.000
Bank of Jordan	890	104648	118.000	118.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	19095	47742	2.490	2.510	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	312000	280387	0.850	0.900	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	18839	23480	1.760	1.730	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	46863	35874	0.770	0.770	1.000
National Financial Investments	65100	97625	1.500	1.500	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	48904	38416	0.770	0.770	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	3903	3512	0.900	0.900	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	5811	7953	1.380	1.370	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	75	1200	18.000	16.000	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	24653	139528	5.000	5.500	1.000
REFOCO Life Insurance	404	356	0.880	0.880	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1650	1353	0.830	0.820	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	925	1257	1.350	1.370	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	7600	5843	0.770	0.770	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Jadida Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	25940	14110	0.560	0.550	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	2789	1116	0.400	0.400	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	577	386	0.680	0.690	1.000
Parfa Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	6365	920	0.650	0.640	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	2100	787	0.850	0.880	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	2414	3660	1.520	1.530	1.000
Irbit District Electricity	557	531	0.900	0.960	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	500	430	0.860	0.860	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	3180	8725	2.720	2.750	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	272	598	2.200	2.200	1.000
Dar Al Shaah Press, Printing and Publishing	8600	3859	0.460	0.450	1.000
Jordan Dairy	9175	10855	1.180	1.180	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	4997	10352	2.140	2.040	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	401167	432153	0.990	1.000	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	97	116	1.940	1.920	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta)	835	1186	1.360	1.410	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	897	4561	5.000	5.110	1.000
Aladdin Industries	83383	86648	1.050	1.050	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	189348	362264	1.940	1.900	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	102	449	4.400	4.400	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	6060	6398	1.050	1.050	1.000
Chemical Industries	5690	6155	1.080	1.100	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	7150	3380	0.460	0.490	1.000
Dar Al Dawaa for Development and Investment	3807	4981	1.330	1.340	1.000
National Steel Industries	61210	142389	2.380	2.360	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	5516	5062	0.900	1.000	1.000
General Mining	100	140	1.370	1.400	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4167	31080	7.500	7.440	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	55985	15881	0.280	0.290	1.000
National Industries	4308	2679	0.610	0.630	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	2500	750	0.300	0.300	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	1260	945	0.750	0.750	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	4000	4590	1.150	1.150	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	774	1915	2.350	2.500	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	1150	541	0.470	0.470	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	1500	1200	1.000	0.800	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1005	1960	1.950	1.950	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	91500	85760	0.900	0.930	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	133037	121231	0.910	0.900	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	105292	312215	3.290	3.180	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	39535	38749	0.980	0.980	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	2345	2222	0.970	0.920	1.000
Grand total	1,862,006	2,616,630			

Egyptian employees to get 20 per cent pay increase

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak announced Friday night a 20 per cent raise for government and public sector employees, intended to counteract recent increases in prices of commodities.

President Mubarak said the new raises will cost the government 850 million Egyptian pounds (\$388,127,853) annually and will be effective July 1.

"The whole world, whether rich or poor, suffers from imbalance between prices and salaries," President Mubarak said following an evening meeting with the parliamentary committee of his ruling National Democratic Party.

"The raises are aimed at establishing a balance between prices and salaries," he said, adding that the government would reinforce control on markets to avoid unjustified price increases by greedy merchants.

The Egyptian government, plagued with a \$38 million foreign debt, has over the past year been executing a new economic reform plan which has included hikes in electricity and gasoline prices and substantial decreases in food subsidies.

The result has been increases in almost everything from food prices to carpenter and plumber services. This had created a heavy burden on government employees, whose starting salary is around 60 pounds (\$27.4) monthly.

Under Egyptian laws, the highest government salary is the president's at 300 pounds monthly (\$228) plus benefits.

In addition to a sharp cutdown on "luxury" commodity imports, the government announced last May a 50 per cent devaluation of its currency to be used in 40 per cent of the country's financial dealings.

Customs and other transactions will be incorporated into the new exchange system within 18 months, a move which is expected to further increase commodity prices.

The daily Al-Ahram newspaper said Saturday that there would be negotiations between workers' unions and the private sector about similar raises. The private sector in the 1982-87 five year plan constituted 23 per cent of Egypt's economic investments.

Meanwhile, bankers say that Egypt appears set to speed up foreign exchange reforms backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after reporting an early success for the month-old scheme.

Despite some flaws, the May 11 partial flotation of the Egyptian pound against other currencies is generating enough foreign exchange to cover importers' needs, they said.

"The system is working and working well," said former central bank governor, Mr. Ali Negm, in an interview with Reuters. "Since it is working and they are acquiring enough foreign currency, they have pushed faster than expected."

But for the reforms to enjoy

long-term success, he said basic flaws had to be rectified, especially a problem of more than \$2 billion owed by private business to the banks.

"At the moment, it is a one-way street," said Mr. Negm, now deputy chairman of Arab International Bank, referring to rules preventing banks from selling foreign currency, except for certain categories of import.

As a result, bankers say many of their business clients have been unable to repay their foreign currency loans.

Economy Minister Youssri Mustafa said the banks had netted \$211 million since the free foreign exchange market was established, enough to cover needs of both private and public sector importers.

Egypt last month agreed with the IMF to unify its multiple exchange rate system over 18 months as part of an economic reform package which released \$325 million in IMF standby credits and paved the way for rescheduling of \$12 billion in official debt.

Under the accord, partly negotiated by Mr. Negm before he resigned from the central bank last November, 40 per cent of transactions would be moved to a new free market rate set daily by a committee of eight banks within six months.

The other 60 per cent would move from the commercial bank rate of 1.35 pounds to the U.S. dollar to the new free market rate, currently at 2.18 pounds, in the remaining 12 months.

Another government rate, 0.70 pounds to the dollar for internal accounting and tallying commodity import prices, will not be scrapped under present plans.

Mr. Negm said he now expected unification of the exchange rate to be completed before the 18-month time frame was

over. The IMF initially suggested an immediate float but central bank governor, Mr. Mohammad Salahuddin Hamid, told reporters last month it later abandoned this "shock treatment" approach.

A foreign banker said the government might move to abolish the eight-bank committee and allow a supply-driven foreign exchange market to take over by the end of this year, allowing the banks deal freely in foreign exchange.

Mr. Negm said the system's main weakness was absence of a provision to create an alternative source of foreign currency for purposes other than trade financing since the previously-tolerated black market was curbed last month.

As it stands, hard currency may be purchased in the banks only for 40 per cent of imports. There is no provision for the remaining 60 per cent or for other purposes, such as travel abroad.

This has curbed imports, mainly of non-essential items, and aided government efforts to reduce the trade deficit, \$7.5 billion in 1985/86.

In its new five-year plan starting July 1, the government has allocated 40 per cent of total investments of \$66.4 billion to private industry and business.

Yet bankers say the public sector, which has higher Egyptian pound deposits, is being favoured and is absorbing the bulk of foreign exchange generated by the new system.

A credit squeeze imposed along with the IMF deal has also limited funds available to private firms, bankers say. Lending was curbed and some domestic interest rates were raised.

Until last month, the black market attracted the bulk of expatriate workers' remittances — \$2.5 billion in 1985-86 — and provided a major source of foreign currency.

In an apparent start to tackling the problem of private sector debt, the central bank asked banks for a maturity analysis on outstanding hard currency debts.

Saudi oil reserves rise despite increased output

JEDDAH (R) — Proven oil and gas deposits in Saudi Arabia increased in 1986 despite higher oil output, according to figures released Friday by the kingdom's main producing company, Aramco.

Recoverable oil reserves in Saudi fields rose to 167 billion barrels by the end of the year from 166.5 billion in 1985, while gas reserves jumped by 7.7 per cent to 135.8 trillion cubic feet from 126.1 trillion, the company's annual report said.

At current production levels, this amount of crude reserves would last nearly to the year 2100. Many new reserves are likely to be discovered during the

next century, though Saudi output is also likely to rise significantly as other nations' reserves run out.

Aramco, responsible for all Saudi production except about 200,000 barrels per day (b/d) in the Neutral Zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, increased production to 4.69 million b/d in 1986 from 3.04 million in 1985.

The 1985 level had been the lowest since the 1960s.

Most of 1986 was a virtual free-for-all in production, as members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) abandoned output restraint to try to recapture their share of the market.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's a remarkably good Sunday for you to sit down and plan whatever new venture you have in mind. Chart a course of action that uses current ideas and methods.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have powerful wishes that can be attained if you go after them in a precise and positive manner.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Consult with experts at leisure and gain the good advice you need. Be happy with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can gain the assistance of good friends for any project you have in mind, so discuss it with them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Make sure you complete some work left undone. Tonight is fine for gadding about town and having fun.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Become better adhered to the philosophy you follow. Plan a trip that can bring you more of the things you desire.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Enjoy the pleasures that your mate prefers. Shop around for whatever articles you need, or want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's a good day to go out and meet new personalities. Reviving a new association is also possible now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It's a good day to do something thoughtful for those you have not seen for some time. Keep busy and alert.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into the amusements that most appeal to you and have a fine time. Take friends along with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be more appreciative of your family's finest qualities. Entertain interesting people at home tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get in touch with as many persons as you can and renew old friendships as well. Be happy today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can get fine ideas for increasing your income. Set up a new, detailed budget that will work nicely for you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have fine creative ideas. Your progeny, however, must be taught to finish whatever has once been started if the life is to be really successful. The education should be as thorough as possible since this child has a fine mind and sturdy body.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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| Strokes gently | Bay gull | Suburban | Related | Instrument for | Charm | Borges | Impressionist | center of | Belgium | Superlative | suffix | Assent | Wash, city | Act | Art tree | Scenic | Delicate | Funeral | Capitane | Superlative | Belgium | Superlative | suffix | Assent | Wash, city | Act | Art tree | Scenic | Delicate | Funeral | Capitane | Superlative | Belgium | Superlative | suffix | Assent | Wash, city | Act | Art tree | Scenic | Delicate | Funeral | Capitane | Superlative | Belgium | Superlative | suffix | Assent | Wash, city | Act | Art tree | Scenic | Delicate |

World arms spending reaches \$900b in 1985

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nations of the world stepped up their spending on arms to nearly \$900 billion in 1985, an increase of 3.7 per cent from the previous year, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency has estimated.

The United States and the Soviet Union, which together account for more than half the weapons sales, continued to run neck-and-neck, the agency said. Over the 1981-1985 period, the Soviets sold \$55.7 billion worth of arms, or nearly 30 per cent of weapons purchased by all nations.

The United States, meanwhile, sold \$49.2 billion, or 26 per cent, but was ahead of the Soviets in two of the years, 1983 and 1985. The U.S.- and Soviet-led alliances — the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact — accounted for 77.3 per cent of military spending in 1984, the last year for which detailed statistics were compiled.

The 17th annual report of the Arms Control Agency did not list any U.S. weapons sales to Iran. Officials, demanding anonymity, said they relied on the Central

Intelligence Agency and other U.S. intelligence groups for their information.

President Ronald Reagan has acknowledged authorising surreptitious arms sales to Iran beginning in November 1985 through Israel. Up to 30 million worth were provided before deliveries were stopped last year.

Ranked behind the two superpowers were Britain, China, West Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Poland and Japan. Africa was the only region of the world in which the growth rate of military spending declined between 1980 and 1984, the report said.

At the same time, the growth of the world's armed forces accelerated. Iraq, which is locked in a 6½-year war with Iran, accounted for 30 per cent of the increase in 1984. NATO grew at a rate of 1.3 per cent, compared with the Warsaw Pact's growth of

0.9 per cent.

Iraq is also the world's leading arms importer. It bought \$7.7 billion worth in 1984, more than twice Saudi Arabia, which ranked second with \$2.6 billion. The next leading importers were Iran, \$2.2 billion; Libya, \$1.8 billion; Egypt, \$1.6 billion and Syria, \$1.5 billion.

China reduced its armed forces to 4.1 million personnel in 1984, from a peak of about 4.75 million in 1981, but still ranked second only to the Soviet Union, which had 4.5 million troops under arms.

The United States was third with 2.2 million military personnel, and two developing countries, India and Vietnam, fourth and fifth with 1.4 million and 1 million, respectively.

Five developing countries — Turkey, Iraq, North Korea, Pakistan and South Korea — ranked next in order, exceeding such traditional military powers as France, Italy and West Germany.

Third World arms producers captured only 7 per cent of the arms market in 1985, barely above the level of a decade ago.

Manila police kill 4 gunmen

MANILA (R) — Four gunmen were killed and a policeman critically wounded in a running street battle in a popular Manila tourist district early Saturday.

A police spokesman said the four were not members of Communist "Sparrow" assassination squad, as earlier suspected, but criminals wanted for serious offences.

The shootings took place in the Ermita district lined with girls bars and night clubs, a favourite haunt of foreign tourists.

The state-owned Philippines News Agency reported that a police patrol approached the men after they were seen acting suspiciously.

The suspects opened fire, shooting a policeman in the stomach. A running street battle erupted in which the four men were killed.

The agency said police recovered a hand grenade, three revolvers and several rounds of ammunition.

The killings came only hours after Communist rebels, who have been carrying out a campaign of street killings of lawmen in Manila, said they were ready to switch tactics to grenade attacks on police stations.

But police Chief Col. Johnny Lagasca, who the rebels say is high on their hit list, said: "We are ready for whatever they try to throw at us."

Rebel sources said they were likely to target police stations for future attacks because police were becoming familiar with street ambushes and better prepared to resist them. Many police now patrol the streets accompanied by armed bodyguards.

"We are not going to keep to a pattern. We are likely to stage more daring attacks on police stations," one rebel source told Reuters.

More than 50 soldiers, policemen and civilian informers have been killed in street ambushes in Manila and the suburbs since the start of the year.

Communist "Sparrow" hit-squads — named for the swiftness with which they strike — have claimed 22 of the murders, six of which have occurred this month.

Col. Lagasca said he had no intelligence reports of any new rebel plans. "But we have been expecting a change of tactics for sometime now and we are prepared for anything they might try," he said.

Col. Lagasca said that an assassination attempt on his policewoman secretary in Manila Friday may have been intended as a warning to him.

Policewoman Elizabeth Dabu was walking to her office in central Manila when she realised she was being followed by three men.

Shultz chides Rogers; arrives in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday attacked departing NATO commander Bernard Rogers for saying the United States had pressured its allies into agreeing to a rushed arms control proposal.

"His statement that things have happened in a big rush is obviously ridiculous," Mr. Shultz told reporters on his way to Australia for talks with government leaders.

"In terms of going around twisting arms, that is a curious way to describe the intensive, and I might say much appreciated, pattern of intensive consultations."

"Our allies liked that. They didn't resent that. They thought it was the right thing to do," Mr. Shultz said.

General Rogers made his comments about the "double zero" arms control proposal in an interview with the Washington Post prior to his retirement at the end of the month.

The proposal would remove U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe. Mr. Shultz said it was first put forward by the United States in 1981.

"At that time critics said it was too good a proposal. They said it was so good a proposal the Soviets would never accept it."

Mr. Shultz said Gen. Rogers' accusation that the deal, expected to be completed this year, was primarily motivated by domestic politics was a strange comment from a man who had been in Europe for eight years.

"The U.S. political scene hasn't been his sphere of expertise. I think he's way out of line. Gen. Rogers should put that in his pipe and smoke it," he said.

The European allies agreed to the double-zero option at a meeting in Reykjavik earlier this month after eight weeks of hesitation and despite lingering doubts, mainly by West Germany.

Shultz, Weinberger in Sydney

Mr. Shultz and Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger arrived in Australia Saturday for annual security talks that would normally include New Zealand, the third member of the so-called ANZUS Alliance.

They will hold two days of talks with Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and Defence Minister Kim Beazley on subjects ranging from New Zealand's nuclear policies to Soviet intentions in the South Pacific and last month's coup in Fiji.

New Zealand was effectively suspended from the alliance last year because of its refusal to allow nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships to visit.

The policy, which became law last month, caused a split with Washington three years ago. In line with its global policy the United States refused to tell Wellington whether a destroyer due to visit New Zealand was nuclear-armed.

Mr. Shultz told reporters on his way to Sydney that New Zealand would be welcomed back into the alliance at any time but he saw no prospects of a change of policy that would allow this.

"All they have to do is say so and we will work out a formula, although I don't see any immediate possibility of that," he said, referring to failed efforts to find some way in which each country could satisfy its policy.

U.S. officials said they expected disagreement with Australia during the talks, which start Sunday, over Soviet intentions in Asia and agricultural policies.

1 killed by gas leak in India

NEW DELHI (R) — A woman died and 82 people were rushed to hospital when chlorine gas leaked from a water tank in northern India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

It quoted a Meerut district official as saying the leakage, which began early Saturday morning in an army camp, had been plugged.

Four employees of a local water pumping station were accused on negligence.

PTI said nine people were being treated in hospital in Meerut but others, women and children among them, had been sent home after first aid.

Earlier PTI said 46 people were taken to hospital but discharged after first aid.

Karachi death toll rises to 4

KARACHI (R) — Authorities called in troops to keep order in riot-torn areas of Karachi Saturday as the death toll in Pakistan's latest ethnic violence rose to four.

Witnesses said soldiers patrolled Shah Faisal Colony and Green Town suburbs near the airport in army trucks and set up roadblocks to check for smuggled arms.

Residents told reporters they welcomed the troops and felt secure for the first time after three days of unrest between of rival Mohajir and Pashtun militants.

Two people died of bullet wounds in Shah Faisal Friday in a battle which police ended by firing warning shots in the air.

Bahamas' prime minister wins 6th term

NASSAU, Bahamas (R) — Prime Minister Lynden Pindling won an unprecedented sixth term Saturday, according to unofficial results in the first general election since a drug scandal hit his Progressive Liberal Party (PLP).

Vote counting was still under way but state-run Radio Bahamas said the results showed the PLP had captured 29 seats, the clear majority needed to give the prime minister another five-year term in office.

The opposition Free National Movement (FNM), which had confronted the PLP with its toughest challenge in two decades of power, took 13 of the 49 seats in the House of Assembly.

Two seats went to independent candidates, both former PLP ministers fired in 1984 for accusing Pindling of failing to root out government corruption in this lush, 700-island archipelago, which became independent from Britain in 1973.

Five seats remained undecided and political analysts said the PLP was expected to win at least half of them. That would give the PLP a slightly narrower majority in the British-style legislature.

The FNM shut its campaign headquarters without conceding defeat. Some party officials said FNM leaders were considering a court challenge because of election irregularities.

Two polling stations were forced to close because of a shortage of ballots. Election officials said the voting would resume there Saturday.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Saturday acting Minister Tyrone Fernando summoned Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Ditt Friday night and protested about Gandhi's comments, published in the Indian magazine India Today.

"The Sri Lankan government is gravely disturbed that the Indian prime minister is without reason or facts continuing to criticise it," the statement said.

The newspaper the Island Friday printed parts of Mr. Gandhi's interview with India Today in which he blamed Sri Lanka for worsening relations between the two countries.

"Sometimes we wonder whether this whole exercise of getting the parties together across the table was not used by Sri Lanka to buy time for the military solution. This has caused the problem," Mr. Gandhi was quoted as saying.

U.S. aide sees global end to INF

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior U.S. official has predicted the Soviet Union would agree to the global elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles as part of an arms control deal.

Kenneth Adelman, who heads the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, made the assessment in an interview with Reuters.

"I personally believe they'll eliminate the other hundred missiles," he said, referring to those that would be allowed to remain in place under a U.S.-Soviet draft treaty.

Moscow and Washington have already agreed in principle to remove from Europe all intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) which travel 600 to 3,000 miles (1,000 km to 5,000 kms). This includes the U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles and

the Soviet SS20 and SS4 missiles.

However, the draft treaty now being negotiated in Geneva would allow each superpower to retain 100 INF warheads on its own territory. This has been a Soviet demand.

The United States has repeatedly said it would prefer a global INF ban but would not allow this issue to become an obstacle to an agreement.

Moscow has not told the United States it would accept elimination of its INF missiles from Asia as well as Europe, Mr. Adelman admitted.

But if all the missiles are not done away with, "the verification would be so complicated that you could not have an agreement this year," he said.

The United States has demanded an extremely intrusive verification process — to try to en-

sure neither side cheats — as a condition of an arms control treaty.

Arms experts agree verification is made much easier if all missiles in a particular class are eliminated.

"We have indicated to them that if they want a summit in the fall, signing an INF deal, then the logic is such they would have to eliminate the hundred," he said.

Mr. Adelman also said the Soviet Union has not formally committed itself to the global elimination of shorter-range INF missiles which travel 300 to 600 miles (500 to 1,000 kilometres).

Soviet officials endorsed the concept of globality when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz visited Moscow last April but the specific implications of that position are still being negotiated in Geneva, he said.

Col. Lagasca said that an assassination attempt on his policewoman secretary in Manila Friday may have been intended as a warning to him.

Policewoman Elizabeth Dabu was walking to her office in central Manila when she realised she was being followed by three men.

ASEAN backs nuclear free zone

SINGAPORE (R) — Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja chided his Japanese counterpart Saturday for suggesting that an ASEAN-backed proposal for a nuclear weapon-free zone in South East Asia was a "sentimental exercise."

The comments came at the end of three days of talks between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its industrialised partners, the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community.

At a joint press conference Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari said nuclear-free zones were up to the people of respective regions to decide for themselves.

Pointing out that he came from Nagasaki, devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II, Mr. Kuranari said the declaration of such a zone should be "a scheme that fully protects... it should not be just a sentimental exercise."

Mr. Mochtar replied there was nothing sentimental about ASEAN's desire for a "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality."

He said there was so much concern about the nuclear balance and about safe passage in the open sea that "no thought is given to potential (nuclear) victims."

He said Indonesia sat astride important sea lanes and faced the constant danger of accidental spillage of nuclear waste. Therefore it strongly supported nuclear-free zones.

ASEAN is an economic and political grouping linking Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. Its foreign ministers held a two-day meeting here before discussions with industrialised partners in preparation for the third ASEAN summit in Manila in December.

Mr. Kuranari said Japan would announce at the summit a multi-billion dollar fund to help ASEAN members.

He said firm details of the proposed fund were still to be worked out but it would take into consideration the needs of ASEAN nations.

A communiqué last Tuesday at the end of the two-day ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting said ASEAN would continue studying the concept of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region "with a view to drafting as soon as possible a treaty."

Soviets stage 7th nuclear test to upgrade weaponry

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union staged an underground nuclear test Saturday, apparently aimed at improving the effectiveness of its weapons. It was the seventh since Moscow suspended a 19-month moratorium on testing earlier this year.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said the blast, at the main Soviet test grounds in the Gagegen Hills near Semipalatinsk, in Central Asia, was aimed at "upgrading military technology."

Three of the six previous explosions since tests were resumed on Feb. 26 have been officially described in the same terms, which military analysts say means the blasts were specifically aimed at improving warheads.

Three others were said by TASS to have been linked to "fundamental research" or to "checking the physics of nuclear explosions" — apparently a reference to the effect of nuclear

blasts.

The official agency said Saturday blast had a yield of between 20 kilotonnes (equivalent to 20,000 tonnes of TNT) and 150 kilotonnes (150,000 tonnes) — within the limits of the 1974 Soviet-U.S. threshold test ban treaty.

The unilateral test moratorium was first proclaimed by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1985 and extended several times as he sought to persuade the United States to join in.

Since testing was resumed, Mr. Gorbachev and other Kremlin officials have said frequently they would halt testing again whenever Washington agreed to follow suit.

The United States regards a total ban on nuclear testing as a long-term goal and says its own programme must continue as long as the West's NATO alliance requires nuclear weapons for deterrence.

Belgrade hails Soviet reforms

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav leaders praised recent reforms in the Soviet Union but have stressed their independent Communist course to visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Yugoslav sources said.

Mr. Shevardnadze had talks with his Yugoslav counterpart Raif Dizdarevic, Prime Minister Branko Mikulic and Yugoslav Communist Party Chief Milanko Renovic after his arrival Friday.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with bilateral political and economic ties, with Yugoslavia stressing the principles of the 1955 Belgrade Declaration signed when Nikita Khrushchev recognised Yugoslavia's right to its unorthodox Communist course after a break in relations in 1948.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A10873 ♣5 ♠K72 ♠Q98
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠QJ9 ♠A8 ♠AKQ982
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K7 ♠AKQ852 ♠QJ9 ♠A8
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three diamonds. What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠86 ♠82 ♠872 ♠AQJ983
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K1076 ♠AQJ98 ♠98 ♠A6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q984 ♠87 ♠K83 ♠A786
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?